

The image shows the interior of Blackburn Cathedral, a Gothic Revival style church. The architecture features high vaulted ceilings with intricate ribbing, pointed arches, and a balcony with a decorative iron railing. In the background, a large, ornate altar is visible, featuring a central crucifix and several smaller figures. Five men in suits and ties are standing in the foreground, smiling for the camera. The lighting is warm and golden, highlighting the architectural details.

Blackburn Cathedral
Music & More £3
Autumn 2009

*Blackburn Old Choristers and
Blackburn Connections. p. 16*



FRONT COVER PHOTO (BLACKBURN CONNECTIONS)

Taken in St. Stephen's Church, Bournemouth during their 14th Annual Festival in May.

L-R: **Dr. Martin Neary**, former Director of Music of Winchester Cathedral and Westminster Abbey, who gave a lecture on the music of Henry Purcell, and also composed an anthem and a setting of the Mass for the Festival.

Malcolm Archer, former Director of Music of Wells and St. Paul's Cathedrals, who brought his Quiristers from Winchester College to sing to us. [Malcolm gave two Lunchtime Recitals in Blackburn Cathedral when he was a teenager growing up on the Fylde coast.](#)

[Blackburn OC IAN HARRISON](#), Director of Music of St. Stephen's, Bournemouth, through whose dynamic and inspired initiative the Festival was founded 14 years ago and flourishes.

[Blackburn OC Robert Fielding](#), who brought his choir from Romsey Abbey to sing to us.

Dr. Roy Massey MBE, former Director of Music of Birmingham and Hereford Cathedrals, who was there to enjoy it all (he and his wife are regular visitors to the Festival). [Roy was the assessor of the candidates who applied to be Director of Music of Blackburn Cathedral in 1998 when RICHARD TANNER was appointed.](#) (See p. 20 for more about Dr. Massey.)

And see page 16 for a full account of those music-filled and worship-filled three days.

From OC STEVE HOLMES



J.B. sir – how are you??
I have finally got round to dropping you an e-mail about my recent trip to South America!
The trip my friend Pete and I have just completed was first done by the Cuban revolutionary Ernesto 'Che' Guevara and his friend Alberto Granado back in 1952. They set out on 1949 Norton 500 motorbikes to discover South America.

We decided to emulate this adventurous duo by doing the same trip on the same motorcycles!
We shipped two 1940's Nortons out to Buenos Aires and on January 20th we started our trip.



As a young medical student, Guevara travelled throughout Latin America and was transformed by the endemic poverty he witnessed.



Our starting point was the Guevara family home in Buenos Aires which is exactly the same place these young Argentinians



started their journey from all those years ago.

Before I left these shores I put out a request to borrow an old suitcase, which I intended to throw away when the bike was packed with all my gear. This request was met by **Lucy Jackson!** (The late **Provost Lawrence Jackson's** daughter). She gave me the Provost's old suitcase in which he kept his cassocks. When the time came to ditch the case I just couldn't bring myself to do it. So consequently the old suitcase accompanied me on the 8,000 mile journey strapped to the back of the equally old Norton.



Leaving Buenos Aires we headed south and after hitting the Atlantic coast rode right through Argentina, over the Andes and into Chile. (See map.) We met some lovely people and enjoyed fantastic hospitality wherever we went.

We made it through the Atacama desert (which is the driest place on earth), then leaving Chile we entered Peru.



Peru brought us quite a few hidden dangers, (*see bad road photo!*) but also some wondrous moments, including a visit to Nino's foundation which caters for up to 600 homeless children a day in Cusco. It was a truly heart-wrenching and moving moment to meet these young orphans. I even managed to have a game of football with them!

Another highlight was visiting the lost Incan city of Machu Picchu and also the cathedral in Cusco which is built on top of the Incan temples destroyed by the Spaniards.

We then took a boat down the Amazon with the bikes and eventually entered Colombia.

The cathedral in Bogotá was truly amazing, but behind it was a church which was red- and white-striped, so it reminded me of our own cathedral!

After Colombia we ended our trip in the Venezuelan capital of Caracas, where petrol is 4 pence a gallon. Needless to say the Venezuelans all drive the biggest American gas-guzzlers you ever saw.

It is difficult to condense a three-month trip into a letter. But if you log on to www.revolutionroad.com then click onto blog, you can read up and see some photographs of our trip. Start in January and follow our adventure. It was an adventure I shared with an old friend, an old motorcycle and an old suitcase!!

Wow, Steve! Thanks so much for sharing your amazing adventures with us! JB



HAVE YOU SEEN OUR NEW WEBSITE?

Just 'Google' **Blackburncathedral** [one word] and all will be revealed!

It's mind-boggling to explore on line all that Blackburn Cathedral has to offer; there's so much going on here right now:

WORSHIP, of course, which is central to our life; but also **OUTREACH** to asylum seekers and refugees who come to Blackburn with absolutely nothing except the clothes they stand up in, having escaped from their homeland after terrible suffering.

DEVELOPMENT PLANS which will give us a brand new Cathedral Close, with a Deanery, Canons' and musicians' apartments, and so much more.

EXCHANGE and **EDUCATION**: We're the only Anglican Cathedral in the world which has the privilege of a Muslim on its fulltime staff.

FRIENDS' activities. *Are you a Friend?*

WHAT'S ON today, this week, this month... *and more and more.*

And, of course, there are exhilarating pages about our flourishing

MUSIC PROGRAMME, created by our dynamic Director of Music, **RICHARD TANNER**. *We have one of the largest cathedral music programmes in this country with over 150 singers – and they're entirely voluntary.*



We have SIX choirs
Our Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys:



Did you know that our choristers receive the equivalent of £1,000 tuition in music every year? And it's all FREE!

Our Girls' Choir



Dr. Condoleezza Rice, then US Secretary of State, after our Girls' Choir had sung to her three years ago.

Our Young People's Choir, directed by **JAMES DAVY**



Rehearsing can be serious hard work – but fun!

Our Lantern Voices, for very young children



*Two choirs, (i) for 4-7 year olds, directed by **Joy Fielding**, and (ii) 7-11 directed by **Gill Fourie**.*

And the Renaissance Singers



The Renaissance Singers recording for BBCTV

As well as singing for our services with a repertoire of some of the finest choral music ever written – both ancient and modern – our choirs give concerts with professional orchestras and even make foreign tours. In recent years we've visited **Paris, Prague, Berlin, Malta and even the USA!**

And, of course, we have one of the finest **cathedral organs** anywhere in the world.

Come and join us!

linda.bruce@blackburn.anglican.org



We were honoured...

... to welcome back to Blackburn Cathedral one of our former Residentiary Canons – who is now Dean of Westminster! **Dr. John Hall** drove from London at 5.00 am on Saturday, 9th May, to preach at the Blackburn Branch of the Prayer Book Society's 24th Annual Festival. (And he drove all the way back again that same afternoon! What an amazing example of devotion!)

Dean Hall was welcomed by **Dean Christopher Armstrong**



with a timely cup of coffee. He was also welcomed by our **Canon Chris Chivers** (it was his day off – thus the mufti). Chris had taken a reverse professional route from Dean Hall (viz. Blackburn to London), for Chris had been Precentor of Westminster Abbey before coming to Blackburn.

The cathedral crypt was a-buzz with lively conversation from other distinguished guests before the service of Holy Communion:



L-R: **Neil Inkley**, Secretary & Treasurer of the Blackburn Branch, **Dr. Keith Hamnett** from Manchester Metropolitan and the Open University, who was our afternoon guest speaker, **Prudence Dailey**, National Chairman of the PBS, and the **Revd. Alan Reid**, Chairman of our Blackburn Branch.

A large congregation was gathering in the Nave; two of the early arrivals were His Honour Judge **Brian Duckworth**, President of the Blackburn Branch and Mrs. **Sheila Walker** – both of whom were choir parents during JB's time as DoM.



The service (*Stanford in C & F*) was sung by OCTAVIUS – OC **Anthony Tattersall's** hand-picked choir of ten (*sic*) voices. They were splendid – with a lovely soaring soprano line supported by full-toned ATBs.

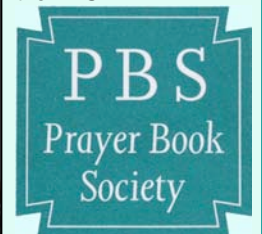


And they were accompanied equally splendidly by our own **David Scott-Thomas**. (He plays right notes *all* the time!)



It was very good to see our cathedral chorister **William Fielding** acting as Gospel Bearer. He and his family, as has been mentioned many times before, have connections with this place which go back over two centuries,

It was also very good to welcome again, Mr. **David Yorke** (L) and Mrs. Yorke, (*out of photo* – Branch Vice President), and **Lord and Lady Clitheroe**. Lord Clitheroe is former President and now V.P. of the Blackburn Branch of the PBS.



In his meticulously prepared sermon **Dean Hall** said that he had the happiest memories of his time at Blackburn, and that he had presented the National Cranmer Awards in London last year. (These Awards are given to young people who recite best a short passage from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer – BCP).

The 'meat' of his sermon was devoted to the pros and cons of the theological points concerning the BCP which he presented in fascinating detail. These doctrinal issues are still being discussed in the C of E.

And the service was celebrated by our own Bishop, **Nicholas Reade**, whose masterful delivery always adds dignity to everything he does.

How good it was to hear the timeless words of Cranmer – especially his reciting of the Ten Commandments, with their sung response between each.

And, of course, the **Gloria** climaxed the end of the service! Creative nostalgia and questing theology mix so fruitfully in the aims of the PBS!

Then came a magnificent lunch, created by our own Café-in-the-Crypt team, led by **Amanda McCreadie**. Ham, Turkey, Beef, sausages, many vegetables and deliciously tempting desserts.



How good it was to see three former Blackburn Residentiary Canons, two retired but active, and the other not retired and very active, enjoying each other's company again!



L-R: David Galilee, John Hall and Michael Taylor.



After that splendid lunch Judge **Brian Duckworth** declaimed, in ringing tones, how much we had enjoyed the company of Dr. **John Hall**. And he showed our appreciation by presenting him with a gift. (What it was we knew not!)

And after that there was the AGM, skillfully chaired by the Revd. **Alan Reid**, who took every opportunity to tell a funny story. (We expect that from our genial chairman!)

For example, he said that the Bishop of Lancaster asked who was the richest lady in the Bible. **Answer:** Pharaoh's daughter, who went down to the bank and drew out the prophet!



And there was, as ever, a meticulous presentation by our secretary-treasurer, **Neil Inkley**. (Neil is an Old Chorister of Peterborough.) His attention to detail keeps us all in order.

There was just time left before a welcome cuppa, for our guest lecturer, Dr. **Keith Hamnett** to take centre stage. His speciality is modern languages, and he deplored the 'messaging about' with traditional hymnody and liturgy in an effort to make them Politically Correct.



So many alterations have been made these days, without our permission. 'Man' is now non PC, and even though the Christian life is a continual battle against sin, the world and the devil, non-militaristic language is becoming the norm. *Onward Christian soldiers*, has been changed to *Onward Christian pilgrims*.

(When JB first took up his position as DoM of Trinity Episcopal Church, Princeton, NJ, in January 1983, he was asked by the Rector what hymn he would like for Epiphany Choral Evensong. JB answered, *As with gladness men of old*. The assistant lady priest immediately blew up and exclaimed, 'Men!! There are women Christians too, you know!' JB was so taken aback by this that he forbore to suggest that it wasn't the three Wise Women who rode their camels into Bethlehem!)



The day ended with a lovely Choral Evensong (*Sumsion in G*) sung by Octavius.

The first lesson was read, most beautifully, by **Jonathan Chard** from Blackburn Diocese, who is the National Junior Winner of the Cranmer Awards this year,

And so ended a glorious Festival. **Book next Year's Festival, which will be on Saturday 8th May 2010.**

COINCIDENCES: ONE!

COINCIDENTAL NEWS FROM LINCOLN COLLEGE, OXFORD

The '*Lincoln-Lancashire Mafia*' held a group photo when **Canon Chivers** recently preached at Lincoln College, Oxford, at the invitation of the College Chaplain, the Revd. **Gregory Platten**.



L-R: Jonathan Turner (Sr. Organ Scholar, and former O.S. of Blackburn), the Chaplain, Canon Chris and OC Tom Daggett.

Taking his cue from the Johannine passage about the Good Shepherd which was the Gospel for the day, Canon Chris looked at the way in which human beings tend to have a very fixed view about who is or is not 'in the fold'. He challenged his listeners to transcend a way of thinking that sorts the world into 'insiders' and 'outsiders'.

He was delighted to spend time with Jonathan Turner and Tom Daggett, and to see Jonathan's Mother and Sister, **Gillian** and **Sarah Turner** in the congregation, alongside a member of our Cathedral congregation, **Alice Brooke** who is doing a further degree at Oxford.

From OC TOM DAGGETT, Lincoln College, Oxford.

Dear John,

This is just a quick message to say thanks for the newsletters you sent to me in college.

The new organ is scheduled to be installed this coming Christmas; at the moment, we have a rather loud digital one by Allen organs -- I've had a number of complaints from fellows for playing too loudly, but I never pay attention! Neither does Jonny! (our senior organ scholar **Jonathan Turner**). I'll get round to sending you a photo of the two of us when one has been taken.

For the time being, all the best, and thanks again, **Tom**

From former Assistant Organist TIM COOKE in Berks.

Dear John,

Thank you very much for the latest issue of *Music & More* magazine – it's a stunning publication. Helen and I both enjoy reading all the latest news and seeing photographs of all the concerts, workshops and the many other events featured.



Tim and Helen Cooke in 2008

Time seems to have flown since 2000, when I played my last service at Blackburn Cathedral. For the last four years I have been involved with the music of my local parish church in Thatcham where I play a 3-manual Gray & Davison each week. On occasions we have joined forces with other choirs from the Oxford Diocese to sing some fabulous services and concerts.

In 2007, after several years of full-time teaching at Bradfield College (where I was also College Organist) and Abingdon Prep School, I have decided to have a change. Shortly after enjoying my final long summer holiday I began working for **Allen Organs** – work which I find immensely satisfying and rewarding and which keeps me busier than ever!



I have been selling, installing and voicing some wonderful digital organs of all sizes for churches, schools, homes and even prisons. The latest technology is simply fantastic and keeps on getting better.

Although my annual holiday time has shrunk from 18 weeks to just 28 days, I have been privileged to see many beautiful parts of the British Isles and seem to spend about a fifth of my time in Scotland, which is almost becoming a second home!

Recently I was contacted by **Jonathan Turner** to see if we could help Lincoln College chapel as their incumbent pipe organ was in a bad way, and they are awaiting the completion of a brand new instrument, so we installed a small pre-owned digital organ to see them through the coming period.

We look forward to receiving future copies of the magazine! Keep up the good work.

All best wishes,

Tim & Helen.

For an update on former organ scholar of Wellington Cathedral, NZ, Blackburn and Lichfield Cathedrals, NIGEL POTTS who now makes music in NEW YORK CITY,



see his exciting website: www.nigelpotts.com

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Send your news, with JPEG photographs, to
The Editor, Dr John Bertalot,
john@bertalot.org

WARTIME BRITAIN



Photos by Andy Bruce

The Cathedral Crypt was packed with a large and lively audience on Saturday evening, 16th May, for **James Davy's** musical evening to celebrate the melodies and memories, the hurts and the humour, of the World War 2 years.

All the performers were encouraged to dress in 1940s clothes – and that in itself brought back memories to those of us who are over a Certain Age! (For War was declared exactly 70 years ago this coming September 3rd.)

Eileen Hemingway, former President of The Renaissance Singers, was our compère, and the **Renaissance Singers** (who've never dressed like that before!) got the evening off to a great start by singing the tear-jerker, *There'll be Bluebirds over the White Cliffs of Dover*, which was arranged and conducted by **James Davy**



Dry eyes were not in evidence that evening, for some of the choir's other offerings included *The Lambeth Walk*, (*Doin' the Lambeth Walk - Oi!*), *We'll meet again*, and *God Bless my Soldier Daddy* composed by **James Davy!**



Nurse **Jean Duerden** and Sergeant Major **Jeremy Duerden** enjoyed their roles. And Head girl, **Sarah Chew**, sang *I'll be seeing you ...*



Then came a show-stopping sketch: **DAD'S ARMY** – written by chairman **Gordon Shaw**, who took the part of Captain Mainwaring. (*Where did you get that uniform? 'I hired it!*'), and supported uproariously by the gentlemen of the choir.

Gordon clearly attracted the attention of Renaissance singer **Joyce Wicks** afterwards.



He looked every inch a Home Guard Captain!
And there were recitations, too: **Eileen Hemingway** read John Betjeman's *In Westminster Abbey*. Renaissance Singers' President **Alizon Elliot** read *Wartime Memories*, and **Sarah Turner** read *V. E. Day*. (Hands up all those who remember Victory

in Europe day!)
And we greatly enjoyed the major contribution by our guest artists, the **SWING BAND from St. Christopher's High School**, Accrington, led by our own Renaissance Singer, **Helen Davies**.

They looked splendid and, my goodness, they sounded splendid too!



The Swing Band's super contributions included, Glenn Miller's *In the Mood*, Duke Ellington's *It don't mean a thing if you ain't got that swing*, and *A Nightingale sang in Berkeley Square*, with **Richard Tanner** as soloist. They brought down the house!

The choirmen, in their 1940s gear, enjoyed their own spot of nostalgia with *Lilli Marlene*.



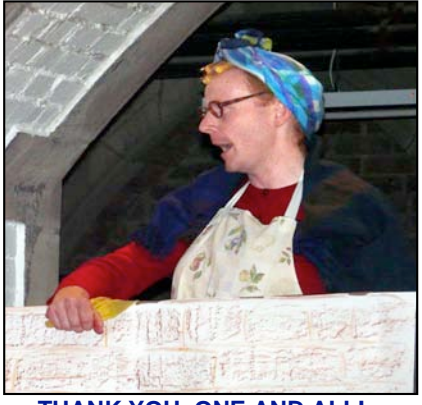
But probably the greatest laughs came when our incomparably talented Assistant Organist, **James Davy**, gave a performance of Norman Evans' *Over the Garden Wall*. (**During those wartime years this was a one-man show in the music halls and on radio by this well-known comedian in drag, who imitated, in monologue, what a working-class woman might gossip to her neighbour, over the garden wall.**)

It was hilarious!

What an evening that was!

What abounding talents we have in our midst – folk who can sing the most sublime music and yet who are equally at home with the music we all enjoyed that evening.

And there were superb refreshments by Peter Crewe!



THANK YOU, ONE AND ALL!

The Cathedral's Annual Parochial Meeting

You really should have been at the Cathedral's Annual Parochial meeting in the North Transept in April: the **Dean** is such an excellent chairman, and **Canon Wedgeworth** is such an excellent Chapter Clerk;



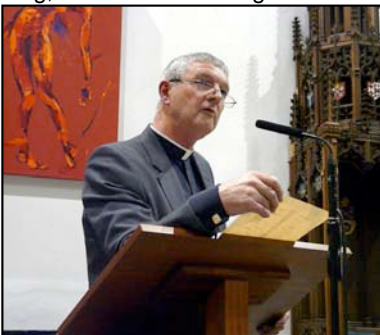
so many fascinating points were reported and discussed, the new loudspeaker system worked very well indeed (when speakers from the floor decided to use the microphone!) and there were refreshments beforehand to strengthen us all for what was to come.

Canon Hindley reported on the need to replace the Nave chairs – many of which had given over 40 years' service. But as they are being continually moved they were coming to the end of their life. The new sound system (as we were experiencing) had greatly improved audibility in the



cathedral, and new vestments were about to replace the gold vestments which had been created by our architect, Laurence King, for the Rehallowing of the Nave way back in 1965.

The Dean reported on our current worship, which comes first in our order of priorities 'in which music plays a central part.'



26 nations were represented when The Sanctuary Project was launched the previous day at Wesley Hall in which we share. It will provide help and support for Refugees and Asylum Seekers. (See p. 31)

The ExChange project goes from strength to strength – over 13,000 visitors came to our Anne Frank exhibition, which was a record.

The Regeneration scheme is led by the new state-of-the-art boiler system and, hopefully, this rebuilding programme won't be caught by the credit crunch.

But we do need more Volunteers to help with our on-going work. For example, in our Café-in-the-Crypt, and to 'man' the welcome desk in the Cathedral. He was grateful to all the volunteers we do have. Their ministry is vital.



Front row L-R: Peter Hardman, Gordon Shaw, Diana Swarbrick & Lady Shuttleworth enjoying a joke.

The Appeal for £3.5M has not yet been launched. **Mrs. Gail Stanley** (former High Sheriff) is the Appeal Chairman.

The Development Plan for regenerating the Cathedral Close has been on hold, but we should know within weeks if the government will give us the go-ahead. The town needs our Cathedral Close development.

The Stewardship Campaign needs a push. Attendance at services is down slightly, in common with other cathedrals. Individual members of our congregation need to be active in bringing friends and neighbours to our services, for we have so much to offer.

There was plenty of good humour in that meeting (as the photograph at the bottom of the first column illustrates) and also some searching questions.

So, book the next meeting which will be on **Wednesday 28th April 2010**. Refreshments at 6.45 pm.

You'll be glad you came.

FROM DEAN DAVID FRAYNE in Dorset



Dear John

Very many thanks for your Wedding Anniversary e-mail last week! Yes - we did celebrate in Luncheon Style - in between a Holy Week Communion Service and putting the finishing touches to a Devotional Address for that evening!

Interregnum life at our Parish Church in Gillingham has had to take a bit of Eastertide precedence over normal retirement activities. Devising clergy rotas is very much "like the old (Cathedral and St. Mary Redcliffe) days." We are so thankful that Liz and I both keep well and derive much enjoyment from our family - in Clevedon, London and Barry.

We often think back to our Blackburn days - it is always good to put the good folk of Dorset straight about life "up North"!



We certainly miss Cathedral music. To receive such ministry, we have to make a 50-mile round trip by car to either Salisbury or Wells or make good use of our Rail Cards or Bus Passes! It is so good to know that Blackburn's music goes from strength to strength – as does your most informative publication.

Come and see us again! With our love, good wishes and prayers - and to all you may well invite to read this!

DAVID F.

The reason I live is to worship You.
The Book of 1,000 Prayers, No. 763
Zondervan

COINCIDENCES: TWO!

DOUBLE COINCIDENCE!

From OC Rod. Hamm in Penwortham

I have just been reading the May *Music & More* with great interest. Depressing though, to see all those old men who were my fellow lads in the choir back in the wartime days. Nostalgia double plus!

One item brought me up short. The letter from an anonymous lady in the South of England refers to my father as being her father's cousin.

Dad was, indeed, Borough Treasurer of Blackburn but died at 51 in 1952. He never did retire, therefore, but died in harness.

I am, therefore, intrigued to know who your communicant was and who her father was. My awareness of relatives on that side of the family is somewhat sparse.

Would it be possible for me to have the lady's name and address, or for my address to be passed on to her in case she would like to establish contact?

Yours sincerely,

Rod.

From Mrs. Carol Robinson in Carnforth,

(widow of the OC. the Venerable David Robinson)

In the May issue of *Music and More* you refer on page 5 to 'An anonymous Lady in the South of England.'

I would be interested to know who this lady is, as she mentions my father, Norman Hamm (yes, two ms) who was Borough Treasurer of Blackburn and says he was her father's cousin, So who is this mysterious relation of mine, I wonder!

All good wishes,

Carol Robinson, (née Hamm)

Answer from JB:

YES – dear Rod and Carol: the anonymous lady is The Revd Ann Barber (née Sutton) who lives in Dorset. I was at school (in Shoreham-by-Sea, Sussex) with her brother, John – and we all grew up together. John also became ordained and served in two churches in our diocese. I knew their father (your cousin) very well; he sang bass in the church choir in Shoreham when John & I were teenagers, but I didn't know his first name – I always addressed him as Mr. Sutton!

And the upshot of all this was that **Ann Barber**, who was staying with her nephew (John's son – who is also ordained – it's catching!) in Manchester, came to Blackburn in May and met her cousin **Rod** – for the first time for over 50 years since she attended **Carol and David Robinson's** wedding!!! (Alas, Carol couldn't be with us this time.)



We enjoyed a convivial lunch at the Spread Eagle, Mellor, when Rod brought out a copy of the family tree and also a photo of Carol's wedding, with Ann clearly there amongst the guests!

COINCIDENCES: THREE!

From OC David Robinson in Cheshire

(no relation to the late Venerable OC David Robinson!)

Dear John,

Received my copy of the May *Music & More* today.

Imagine my surprise to see my father in the Cathedral handbells' pic! He is on the extreme right.



This must have been taken a few years later than quoted in the caption because dad didn't join the belltower until 1960-something.

He was so keen that whenever we were away on holiday he would seek out a tower and join in a session.

He died on October 2, the day after we moved to our cottage at Broxton, aged 86. Thankfully he was active to the last, despite an aneurism which finally saw him off.

Sad to read in the same issue about **David Metcalf**, whom I remember with great fondness. He was one of life's ever-cheerful people and a delight to know and sing with.

Hope you are keeping well.

David

Thanks so much, David. JB

From

Mr. Jim Armfield, OBE, former High Sheriff

Dear John

Your readers may be interested to know that whilst my wife and I were in London last weekend we attended the Temple Church in the City for Choral Mattins as it gave us the opportunity to see how **Greg Morris** was enjoying life since moving from Blackburn.

Clearly he is doing well despite daily commuting from Buckinghamshire. The Temple choir is of high quality, particularly strong in the counter tenor department, it came through beautifully in the anthem *Great Lord of Lords* (music Orlando Gibbons).

At the conclusion, following the departure of the Choir and Clergy, **the entire congregation sat and listened** as Greg played the organ voluntary...Praeludium in D by Buxtehude.

Apparently they always do, and Greg's performance was certainly worth the round of applause that came at the end.

Clearly his time at Blackburn has served him well,

Good wishes

Jim Armfield



Yes – the postludes played here at Blackburn Cathedral are also always of the highest quality. Would that more folk would stay to listen after our services to these final offerings of worship. JB

221 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CATHEDRAL CHOIR

From former Tenor, now Bass, OC Gordon Shaw

As the honorary registrar for the Gentlemen of the Choir, I recently requested details of their length of service in the Cathedral choir for historic and archival information.

I had already realised that the admirable gentlemen on Decani were long serving and beginning to show our age, but with incredible experience and they are v. capable singers.

It amazingly revealed that six of the choirmen have notched up **221 years of service** in their total ministry. WOW !



L-R: Alec Stuttard (22), Gordon Shaw (31), Pete Eastham (53), Derek Crompton (44), Phil Hunwick (36) and James Twigg (22)

I thought it might make a good article for the next **Music & More** especially as we are about to enter into a Stewardship renewal period (**'Six steps in Christian Giving'** from the end of April to the end of May)

What a wonderful example of Service to God and his church.

I also have the details of the other gentlemen which I will archive.

Hope you found this interesting !

Best wishes **Gordon Shaw** . *See page 30 for More of Shaw.*

Well done, men! Your editor is about to notch up 70 years in the service of church music, having joined his local church choir at the age of 8. But he served only 18 years full time at the cathedral, plus 11 years so far as Organist Emeritus!

From OC Geoffrey Taylor in Blackburn

Dear John,

Congrats. as ever on your latest **M&M** which I read during last night from cover to cover whilst propped up in bed (my chronic asthma doing me no favours) and for which yet another 100 Steroids have been prescribed.



However, I thought you might wish for comments/feedback on some of your articles.

It gave me great pleasure to read & see MATTHIEU WOODBURN rising through the ranks and the photo of his "coping". Matthieu was a piano pupil of mine 2002-2006 and passed two Associated Board grades.

I recall his mother telling me that he had been offered a trial voice test by Richard Tanner, and did I think that Matt. should pursue it? My answer was "YES" providing he would be able to cope both with the heavy demands of school and choir. He has tremendous support from his parents who are tireless workers on all things connected with the Cathedral choir

Allan Holden's article on EDDIE HOWORTH brought to mind happy young days under T.L.D. when we were known as the "3 Musketeers".from which a great friendship formed. **Eddie** was "best man" at my wedding to **Gladwyn** and **Allan** was a groomsman.

In 1946 four choristers from Blackburn represented our Cathedral at the first post-war RSCM Festival in Westminster Abbey: EDDIE HOWORTH, WALT. DUXBURY, CHRIS. KINGSTON and myself (I still have my entry pass to the ABBEY). We stayed at Tottenham P.C. vicarage where our former Precentor Rev. **Wallace Clarke** had moved to from Blackburn.

Wonderful memories, Geoffrey. Thank you so much. Get rid of that asthma! JB. (And see page 22 for more of Geoffrey.)

From OC Peter Fielding in Bury



Hello John,

I enjoyed the Newsletter yet again. I've just received some nice news from Spain: **Sacha**, daughter of Hilary (my daughter) has just been appointed Sub Principal of the Cello section of the Orchestra of Seville, (the *Real Orquesta Sinfónica of Seville*) a proud moment!

Looking forward to our BCOCA Reunion in Sept.

Regards, **Peter**

Heartiest congratulations Peter on your granddaughter's wonderful success. I've looked at the Orchestra's website to see just how searching Sacha's audition was!

It's frightening in its scope and it must have been an awesome experience for her. Well done, indeed! JB



AUDITION: VIOLONCELLO SOLOIST ASSISTANT

FIRST PART: Interpretation "behind curtain" of the following composition:

J. Haydn: *Cello concert in D* with cadenza.

SECOND PART:

A slow and a fast movement, of your choice, from the 4th, 5th or 6th Suite of J.S. Bach.

Reading from the following orchestra repertory:

L. v. Beethoven: *9th Symphony Op. 125*. (4th movement)

W. A. Mozart: *Le nozze di Figaro*, (Overture)

B. Smetana: *The bartered bride*. (Overture)

R. Strauss: *Don Juan*

P.I. Tchaikovski: *6th Symphony, Op. 74 "Pathétique"*.

C. Debussy: *La mer*. (Quartet for solo Violoncellos)

W. A. Mozart: *41st Symphony*, (1st movement)

SOLOS:

G. Verdi: *Rigoletto*, Solo of the del Aria (2nd Act, n° 9)

W. A. Mozart: *Don Giovanni*, 1st. Act , N° 12 , Aria

THIRD PART:

A Concerto to be chosen among the following:

W. Schumann: *Violoncello concerto*. Complete with cadenza

A. Dvorak: *Violoncello concerto*. Complete

Orchestral Solos:

P. Tschaikowsky: *Schwanensee* (2nd Act)

G. Rossini: *Wilhelm Tell* (Overture)

G. Puccini: *Tosca*, 3rd Act (First violoncello part)

B)

Sight-reading of one or more Works or excerpts proposed by the selection committee.

*Auditions will follow an alphabetic order. A draw among the letters of the alphabet will determine the surname of the candidate who will make the first performance.

A 'Wow' and another Well done, are most certainly in order! JB

We have only just heard that RONALD FROST

...our former Sub Organist, has been very ill indeed. And that was last year!



He phoned JB this June and said that he was now much better and that he has two assistant organists at St. Anne's Church, Manchester – one is an organ scholar and the other is **Derrick Cantrell**, former DoM of Manchester Cathedral!

We all send you our very best wishes, Ronald, for a full recovery.

JB

COINCIDENCES: FOUR!

QUADRUPLE COINCIDENCES!

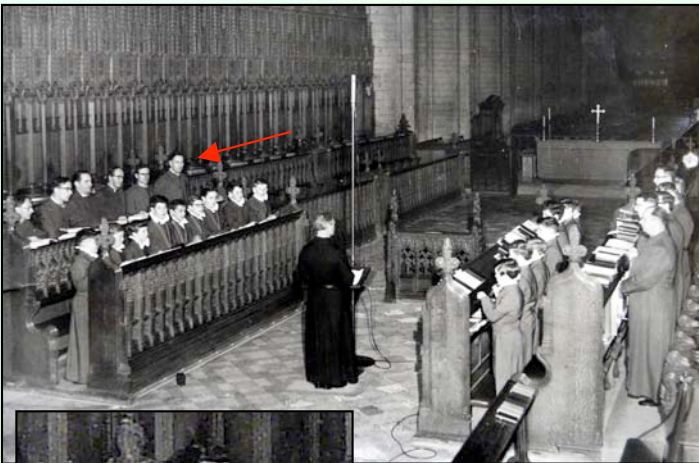
Conversation between Neil Inkley, Secretary of the Blackburn Branch of the Prayer Book Society, and your editor after the PBS Festival in the cathedral (see pp. 4-5):

'Neil, someone told me that you have a new special car number plate.' 'Yes, my son, Michael, got it for me; it's **N14 BCP**.' 'What's that stand for?' '**Neil Inkley For the Book of Common Prayer!**' 'May I take a photo of you with your car?' 'Yes, come to tea next Wednesday!' So I did.



During tea in Neil and Kate's lovely house in Walton le Dale, Neil said, 'Would you be interested to see a photograph of Peterborough Cathedral choir taken in 1963 when I was a supernumerary Bass? I'm on the far side on the right. Stanley Vann was conducting us – we were recording hymns for the BBC as part of their 'permanent hymn record library.' In those days there was a hymn before the morning radio news bulletin on all high and holy days.'

'Yes, I'd love to ... Good gracious, that boy in the middle was a chorister of mine at St. Matthew's Northampton. His name is Jimmy Percival!



Neil

'Jimmy still keeps in touch with me – he's now a grandfather, living in Worthing. But when he won his place to Peterborough Cathedral choir, two more of my St. Matthew's trebles also won choir school places: one to Magdalen Oxford, and the other to St. John's, Cambridge!,' said JB

Jimmy

'When Coventry Cathedral was consecrated,' added JB, 'Jimmy was one of the choristers from other cathedrals who were invited to sing at the Consecration Service!'



'Well that's not all the coincidences of this photo,' added Neil, 'for on the same side is **Fred Smith**, a Blackburn Old Chorister, who later became a prominent member of Blackburn Music Society. He's next-door-but-two from me. He was a great friend

'Many years later Dr. Vann (as by then he had become) even though in advancing years, made the long journey to Blackburn in order to be at Fred Smith's funeral in 1994, for which we had a choir of OCs assembled.'

Neil continued in reminiscent mood, '**Stanley Vann** (who is now nearly 100) offered me the wonderful privilege of promoting me from the cathedral voluntary choir to the main cathedral choir even though my sight-reading was really below standard for complex works. He was a great professional. I remember him saying that the most difficult consonant to sing is a 'k' ending a word, and if one is too pedantic about singing the word '*sanctuary*' it begins to sound as if it were six or seven syllables.'

Neil paused, then added, 'His *piece de resistance* however, after he had listened to a tape of a rehearsal, was to tell us that in '*The Church's one foundation*' we were singing a plural instead of a possessive!'

Neil went to a cupboard and said, 'I've got a recording the Peterborough choir made many years ago of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis by Brian Judge.'

'Brian Judge!' JB exclaimed, 'he was a member of my Shoreham Singers when we were undergrads at Cambridge. We virtually grew up together – he lived in Hove 4 miles away. But I don't remember his Canticles.'

Neil put on the record. 'Good gracious,' exclaimed JB again, 'Brian composed those Canticles for my Shoreham Singers when we sang Evensong in Chichester Cathedral in 1957! I'd completely forgotten them. They were very difficult, but we sang them well!'

'I wonder if Peterborough still has the copies,' said Neil, 'for they are most original and very striking.'

Kate, who had been listening to these exchanges patiently, asked JB if he'd like to see what she had made during the long waiting hours she spent as a hospital midwife in Preston. She led us into a spare room and on the walls were half a dozen enormous tapestries created by the most intricate needlework and framed most beautifully.



'These are amazing,' commented JB. 'The last time I saw anything comparable was at a party after I'd led a 2-week choir course in Ohio. At a reception in his house our American host told us that every summer he created something different. One year it was shelves for his large library, the next was a huge tapestry just like these, the third was a radio controlled battleship and the fourth was an enormous train set in his loft.'

'Come and see what's in my loft,' said Neil.

It was an enormous train set! JB

Phantom of the Opera

Photos by Richard Tanner

Saturday evening, 23 May, saw one of the most unusual concerts held in our cathedral, for DAVID BRIGGS (who was Consultant for our organ's 2000 rebuild is an organist with an international reputation) came to improvise background music for a showing of the 1925 version of the horror film *Phantom of the Opera*.

Some of the audience came suitably dressed:



James Davy and Sarah Turner.

(James must have an enormous wardrobe – see p. 7 !)

Others needed no such disguise!

A large screen was erected at the end of the Nave, and the audience was transfixed by the 'horror' colours that David Briggs produced on our versatile instrument.



And after it was all over, Rodney Swarbrick, Chairman of the Council of our Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Music, thanked David for a stunning performance. *Come again soon, David!*



From DAVID BRIGGS

Hello John

It's very good to hear from you and I quite understand about not passing up to opportunity to go to Florence instead of coming to our 'Phantom' at Blackburn. I'm sure it will be a marvellous occasion. (See next page for Florence.)

In fact we're driving up from London on the Friday morning (i.e. the day of the concert). I'm playing **King of Kings** in St Paul's Cathedral the previous evening (which I'm also really looking forward to, especially with the enormous new nave console).



So we'll probably be in Blackburn by mid afternoon – but my guess is that you will by then be in Florence? Do you have a *locum* in such instances, to take photos for your excellent newsletter?! (Yes, see photos on left!)

I'm very busy with commissions at the moment. I've recently finished **Cross of Nails**, which was commissioned by Coventry Cathedral and will be premiered on the 69th anniversary of the bombing of the old cathedral in November.

I've put quite a lot of myself into it, in fact – Coventry has always been very special to me ... personally, spiritually etc. The whole piece is about reconciliation and making good out of evil. I'm scoring it in May. Currently I'm writing a **Cornish Cantata** with texts by Sir John Betjeman – generally much more light hearted (including the famous 'Diary of a Church Mouse').

Trinity College, Cambridge are making a CD of my choral/organ stuff for Hyperion in July. We're recording it in Gloucester Cathedral – that choir will sound amazing in the Gloucester nave. They are quite stunning under **Stephen Layton** (well, of course they were very, very good under **Dr Marlow**, as well!).

With all very best wishes from Madge and me

David



Malta photos

OUR APOLOGIES...

... for not crediting, in our May edition, the marvellous photos of our choirs in Malta which were taken by ANDY BRUCE and PHILIP HUNWICK. They really brought that amazing week alive for all of us. Thank you!

English Pronunciation (timesonline.co.uk/spelling_bee)



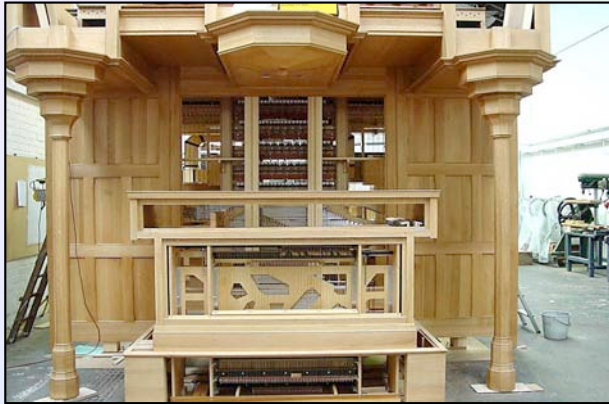
Dearest **creature** in **creation**,
Studying English pronunciation
I will teach you in my verse
Sounds like **corpse**, **corps**, **Susy**, **busy**,
Make your **head** with **heat** from dizzy,
Tear in eye your dress you'll **tear**,
Queer, **fair**, **seer**, **hear** my prayer,
Pray console your loving **poet**,
Make my coat look **new**, dear, **sew** it.

COINCIDENCES: FIVE!

A MOST GENEROUS COINCIDENCE

When the Preston and District Organists' Association (we have over 100 members from all parts of Lancashire and beyond) visited the organ works of Henry Willis and Sons in Liverpool in January we saw a magnificent new organ just about to be completed.

It was a two-manual tracker instrument (i.e. entirely mechanical). For when a key is pushed down it works a lever which works another lever which works another lever until it finally opens the place where the pipe speaks, letting in air). *And the note plays instantaneously!* It's a meticulous process demanding the very highest standards in craftsmanship. This organ most certainly radiated that!



The Managing Director of Willis, **Dr. David Wyld**, came over to JB and said, 'You won't remember me, but I was a chorister in the choir of Manchester Cathedral 40 years ago when you conducted the first Three Choirs' Festival in Blackburn Cathedral – with the choirs of Blackburn, Chester and Manchester Cathedrals.' He paused for a moment and added, 'I've never forgotten that experience, so I'd like you to be my guest when this organ is opened in Florence in May.' 'Wow, yes please!' 'We'd also like you to be one of the guest organists who plays it; will that be OK too?' Yes, it was!

And so, after a convivial night on Wednesday 20th May in David's enormous house in Liverpool – (he and **Philip Cooper** were superb hosts!), the next day David drove us to the East Midlands Airport to catch our plane for Pisa with Philip, who's Willis's office manager (Philip was until recently a professional double bass player who played in Blackburn Cathedral a couple of years ago!), and **Jonathan Bowden** (Finance Director of Willis). **Jonathan** was a chorister at York Minster and a Choral Scholar at Trinity, Cambridge. He's an accomplished organist, organ builder, tenor soloist and he speaks 5 languages! At one time in David's house in Tuscany he found himself accidentally conversing in German with our French Guest!



From Pisa lay a 3-hour car journey to David & Philip's historic country home 50 miles East of Florence – a 15th C. stone house nestling in the hills of Tuscany. To sit on their terrace with glass in hand looking at the view was as near to heaven as one could possibly get!



After a day spent recovering from our journey we went to Florence (90 minutes' drive away) along some of the twistiest roads I've ever experienced as we went down hills and round hills, and up again and down again!

There we collected our other guest, **Frédéric Blanc**, titulaire du grand orgue Cavallé-Coll, de Notre Dame d'Auteuil, Paris, He was a most delightful companion, full of fun and joy.

David introduced me to the acting Rector of the American Episcopal Church in Florence, the **Revd. Barbara Crafton**, who had been on the staff of Trinity Church, Wall Street, NYC (the richest church in the world). We had many friends in common, and she'd heard my Princeton Singers when I'd conducted them for a concert in New York.



She had two guest organists staying in the Rectory from New York – and I knew one of them. **Dr. David Hurd** is Director of Music at the General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church in New York City and is an internationally renowned organist and composer. He and Frédéric joined me as we snatched an hour to sight-see that Saturday afternoon!



And so, on the Sunday we were ready for the launch by two organists from the USA, two from England, (Jonathan Bowden and myself), and one from France

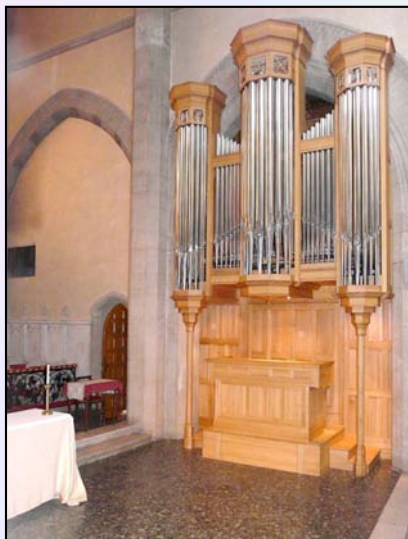
It was very good to meet the man who had taken responsibility to raise the money for the new organ, **Horace Gibson**, who was 91. A most delightful and gentle man.



L-R: **Philip Cooper** (Willis), **Horace Gibson**, **Jonathan Bowden** (Willis), **David Wyld** (Willis), **David Hurd** (NYC), **Gregory Eaton** (NYC) with your editor (behind the camera!)

After David had given a talk about the organ to the congregation, there was morning service which was run as a happy mixture of formality and American informality ... the

Rector said in her sermon on Pentecost said that smokers should give up smoking – with the help of the Spirit. At the end of the service she announced that there was a young man in the congregation who had just graduated from High School, and so he was invited to stand as we all joined in with the American version of *'For he's a jolly good fellow ... which nobody can deny!'*



A quick lunch in a nearby café, and then back to St. James' church to inaugurate the organ. We played in alphabetical order, so I went first. When the Rev. Barbara introduced me as being Director of Music Emeritus at Trinity Church, Princeton, she said, *'That's the church that God goes to when He's in New Jersey!'* (I didn't know that!)

The organ was a joy to play, a joy to behold and a joy to listen to. The five of us played a wide range of organ music from English to Spanish, from Bach's *'St. Anne'* Prelude to Scott Joplin's *Wall Street Rag!*

But everyone agreed that the mighty improvisation by **Frédéric Blanc**, was the high point of the afternoon.

M. Blanc, who lives in Maurice Duruflé's former apartment which contains his house organ and which commands unparalleled views of Paris, was given an unpromising theme on which to improvise: the *Sursum Corda*,

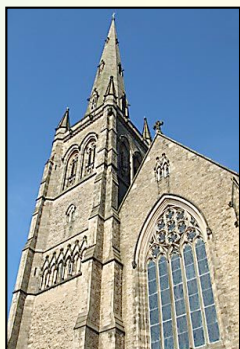


(*'Lift up your hearts...'*). From this he created a magnificent five-movement *Symphonie* which explored the multitude of musical sounds that the organ could produce. He used chords that I'd never heard before and his technique was dazzling. I was in raptures. So were we all.

This earned him a prolonged ovation from the St. James' congregation and especially from his fellow recitalists who recognized genius when they heard it.

In my vote of thanks to everyone after we'd all played, I said that St. James' church (which sponsors a wide range of concerts every week) now has an organ which will add lustre to the artistic reputation of that historic city, for it will enhance their worship and their music-making for 100 years and more. The applause that greeted this remark amply confirmed the church's claim that *'St James now has the finest new organ in Europe.'*

PS COINCIDENCE



Henry Willis and Sons are currently restoring the organ in Lancaster Cathedral where **Damian Howard** is organist. Damian was, of course, organ scholar at Blackburn 1996-97.



Jonathan Bowden is taking part in this restoration, and looks forward to popping down to Blackburn to see our own magnificent organ!

MRS. SARAH CHEW

We were so very sad to learn of the death of Mrs. Sarah Chew, Mother of OCs **Nigel** and the Rev. **Philip**.

Sarah was a lively, supportive and hard-working Choirmother during JB's time at the cathedral – and also a formidable Headmistress. Her boys did as they were told (!) and they made wonderful cathedral choristers.

Readers will have read how Nigel and Philip have progressed since those days – Nigel and his wife are into Judo with a Black Belt each! – and Philip is Vicar of Fenisccliffe and into Christian Rock. How proud she was of them both, and of their families! (*See more on p. 22*)

Sarah was often to be seen in the cathedral until very recently and her bright smile radiated love to all whom she met. May she rest in peace, for her memory lingers on.



Sarah with John, Bishop of Burnley, at Philip's Induction as Vicar of Fenisccliffe last year, with Nigel next to him.

Sarah's funeral at the cathedral on Friday 5th June, was attended by many Old Choristers who formed a special choir to bid her a fond farewell. Philip himself said the prayer over his Mother's coffin and he and Nigel reminisced about their Mother's amazing life. It was a most impressive service led by **Canon Hindley Richard Tanner** played the organ for Howells' *Like as the Hart*, conducted by JB, and as Sarah left the cathedral for the last time we sang Dyson's *Nunc Dimittis in F*. Sarah will always be remembered as a very special person and a very loyal friend who contributed enormously to our life, work & love.

From OC JOHN WILKINSON, OBE in Winchester

Dear John,

Sad news I'm afraid. My mother **Olive Rose Wilkinson** died after a short illness in Winchester, aged 92 years, on Thursday 7th May. She was much loved by many and will be greatly missed by many. She was a grandee of the Mothers' Union, past President of the Blackburn Diocese, Central Council Member, and latterly Vice-President in the Winchester Diocese. The funeral is in her local church this Friday.

In Christian love. **John**



John

*We mourn the loss of another dear choir Mother who was so supportive of her two sons, **John & Tom**, who were Choristers in our Cathedral Choir during Tom Duerden's most memorable years. May she rest in peace.*



Tom



Marjorie Brown, who featured in our last edition, is now resident at Magdalene House, 10-12 Shear Bank Rd, Blackburn BB1 8AP.

Old Choristers who knew **Bert Brown** would be most welcome to visit her. Her brother, John Walsh, lives in Mellor.

Marjorie celebrates her 90th birthday this September.

1939 Herbert Brown

From OC BOB & PAULINE KEEN in Wilmslow



Dear John,

Many thanks for the information on **Marjorie Brown** (whose house is opposite ours). We'll be in touch with her.

I've just sent off the attached photo taken earlier this afternoon in the nesting box outside our patio window.

The blue tits have been back and forward all day for a couple of weeks now. Yesterday we managed to see a couple of wide open mouths just inside the opening of the box, like young choristers trying hard to open their mouths wide enough to devour the whole choir. Today we saw the head of one of the babes and here is a parent dropping a caterpillar into the mouth. photo taken with my new Canon dSLR camera - a birthday present in April. Great fun!



Bob & Pauline

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHOIR by James Davy

The YPC has enjoyed an increased membership recently, in large part due to a steady supply of boys descending from the top line, and we have welcomed a number of girls from the Girls' Choir to sing with us as well.



This is a time of increased commitment in terms of school work and other activities for the members of the Youth Choir and their continued commitment to the choir ensures that we can maintain this important aspect of the music ministry at Blackburn Cathedral. Not only is it good for the members of the YPC (particularly those who leave the boys' choir) to have continuing musical opportunities, through the regular work of the choir and also the larger-scale events such as the Christmas Spectacular, Messiah and the Malta tour, but it also encourages members of the choir to stay together in a social context, reinforcing the friendships they may have first made, up to some 10 years before.

The YPC already undertakes visits within the Diocese on behalf of the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral and has been invited to sing in the opening concert of the Carlisle Festival, re-forming a link with the Carlisle Cathedral YPC that was very strong just a few years ago. It is really encouraging to see the musical growth of the members of the choir as they progress and their voices develop and it's always good to have them back to sing when they have been away to University, too. Long may the YPC flourish!

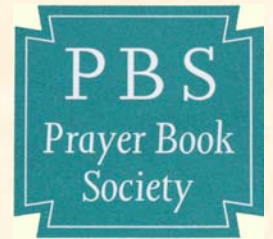
THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

Quote from a recent letter:

Parishioners will find comfort in worshipping in the language and style they are familiar with from their childhood...

JOIN US IN HELPING THIS TO HAPPEN.

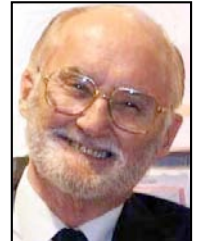
Find out more from
Hon. Secretary,
Neil Inkley,
6 Knot Lane,
Walton-le-Dale,
Preston PR5 4BQ
01772-821-676



From OC PETER HEALD near Ely

Hallo John,

Congratulations on yet another bumper issue of **Music & More!** I represented BCOCA at the National Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers' AGM at St Edmundsbury Cathedral last Saturday, where everyone spoke so glowingly of it. Made me proud to be a BCOC - not that I wasn't already, you understand.



I was told that **James Thomas** [former Blackburn Assistant Organist and now DoM of St. Edmundsbury Cathedral] would not be attending the Federation function, apart from Evensong, but I happened to meet him by chance, on his way to buy eggs at the Bury market. He spotted my Blackburn Old Choristers' tie from across the street, and he sends his best regards to you and everyone at Blackburn. *(See below.)*

Hoping you are having better weather than we are, and lookin' forrard to our Old Choristers' Reunion September.

Ever, **Peter.**

STOPPE PRESSE

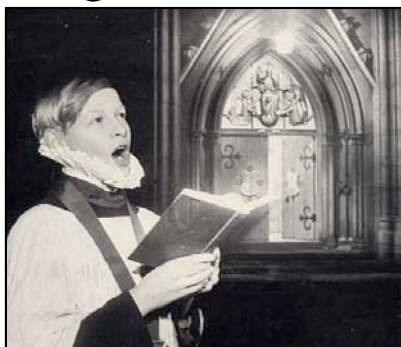
It has just been announced that **JAMES THOMAS**, OC **IAN HARRISON** (*see next page*) and **GORDON STEWART** (former DoM of Blackburn Cathedral) will be presented with the prestigious award of an Honorary Fellowship of the Guild of Church Musicians in recognition of their outstanding contributions to church music.

The Awards will be made by the new Archbishop of Westminster in Westminster Cathedral on November 4.

They join three other Blackburn Organists who have already received this Award: **RONALD FROST, JOHN BERTALOT & RICHARD TANNER.**

Surely this must be a record for any British Cathedral?

OC Ian Harrison's 14th Annual Festival!



OC IAN HARRISON, who was one of Tom Duerden's last choristers and therefore one of JB's first way back in the 1960s, is Director of Music of the most beautiful church of St. Stephen, Bournemouth. He's also DoM of a fine Prep School nearby.

Ian in 1964

For the last 14 years he has organised a superb annual Festival of Music and worship which has the active support of some of the most prestigious church musicians in this country, including **David Hill** (former DoM Winchester and St. John's College, Cambridge) Dr. **Francis Jackson** (York Minster), **James Lancelot** (Durham), **Andrew Lumsden** (Winchester), Dr. **Roy Massey** (Hereford)... and many, many others. *(See our front cover and page 2.)*



This year his Festival was better than ever, if that were possible, for he attracted **Dr. MARTIN NEARY** (former DoM Winchester Cathedral and Westminster Abbey) who had composed an anthem and setting of the Mass for Ian's fine voluntary adult choir, and he also gave a fascinating lecture on the music of Henry Purcell (who was organist of Westminster Abbey 314 years ago).

MALCOLM ARCHER (former DoM of Wells and St. Paul's Cathedrals, and now Director of the Winchester College QUIRISTERS), brought his choir to sing a splendid Festival Evensong at St. Stephen's with music by Bairstow, Stanford and Elgar The Quiristers were founded in 1382 and are a nationally acclaimed choir.

Blackburn Old Chorister **ROBERT FIELDING** brought his own choir from Romsey Abbey to sing another Choral Evensong with music by Whitlock (who was organist of St. Stephen's in the 1940s) Howells and Sir Ernest Bullock.

A regular visitor to the Festival is **Dr. ROY MASSEY** who comes with his wife, Ruth, to enjoy every inspired moment.

The Festival takes place over a long weekend beginning with a High Mass on the Saturday morning celebrated with great dignity and beauty by Ian's Team Vicar, the Revd. Robin Harger. (If you want to experience High Anglican Liturgy at its finest, go to St. Stephen's!) Ian's dedicated adult church choir sang Martin Neary's music (which wasn't easy!)

That afternoon there was Martin's Purcell lecture, a Festival Tea, Festival Evensong (The Quiristers) and an organ recital.

Sunday began with another superb High Mass (Haydn's *Missa St. Joannis de Deo*) with orchestra and chamber organ at the West end of the church. The organist for the Festival, David

Beeby, got much exercise running from the chamber organ at the West, to play the hymns on the main organ in a high loft at the East end, and back again – several times!



Ian was so gracious as to include JB's setting of the Lord's Prayer at the end of the service. How thoughtful.

Then came a superb sit-down Festival Lunch for 40 of us in a nearby hotel overlooking the sea.



L-R: Penny & Martin Neary, Ian Harrison, Lawrence Spicer (Artistic Director), Ruth and Roy Massey.

Ian then excelled himself by conducting an evening concert with his two choirs (church and school) and orchestra and soloists with yet another Haydn Mass (*St. Nicholas*) and Purcell's *Come, ye sons of art*, and more.



Monday included a performance of Shostakovich's Piano Quintet, followed by yet another Choral Evensong (Romsey Abbey/Fielding) and the Festival ended with a Sequence of Music and Readings performed by St. Stephen's choir, a string quartet, organ and soloists, conducted by Ian, which was exquisitely beautiful.

Outstanding was a performance of Mendelssohn's *Hear my Prayer*, sung by one of Ian's trebles from his Prep School. He would have graced the finest cathedral choir.

Being in that church, participating in their liturgy and listening to Ian's music did indeed **bring all heaven before our eyes**.

And the next day the organ began to be dismantled for its complete restoration, for which Ian had raised £156,000.

Very well done, Ian and your fine team, and Thank you!

Another Outstanding 1964 Old Chorister - Neil Fellows ...

... visited us recently, bringing his 60-piece school Symphony Orchestra from Keele. They were amazing!

They gave us an hour's lunchtime concert on Wednesday 29 April which blew us all away on account of their professional polish and musicianship.

Neil teaches at the school, the *Ernst Barlach Gymnasium*, for 8 hours a week, and in that time he has created an orchestra which can hold its own with any youth orchestra in the world.



Neil rehearsing his orchestra that morning



They began with a movement from a Guilmant organ concerto (played by a member of the school staff – his first name was Sebastian – an excellent name for an organist).

This was followed by the 1st movement of Tchaikovsky's violin concerto played, from memory, by Neil's son, **Orlando**. And this blew us all away, too. What superb technique Orlando had, and what a marvellous balance was achieved between soloist and orchestra.

Neil introduced each item to the appreciative audience – and JB was interested to hear that he spoke English with a German accent! He didn't have that problem when he was a chorister here all those years ago!

Their final piece was Sibelius's *Finlandia*, which featured the orchestra's superb French horns. This was not surprising, as Neil is a professional French horn player. The whole programme was played with joy, infectious rhythm and creative musicianship. This, surely, was one of the very finest lunchtime concerts we've ever heard in Blackburn Cathedral.



Our Café-in-the-Crypt gave our guest musicians a splendid lunch and Neil told me that they were on a tour of the UK – playing at Chester and Sheffield cathedrals, and that he took care of all the arrangements. (Wow!)

He also told me that his wife organizes concert tours in Majorca every year – for a youth orchestra of 90 players! Such expertise and dedication and efficiency blew me away yet again.

Neil has five children, all of whom play the violin, and he himself plays the French Horn in the Keele Philharmonic Orchestra.

When Neil was a chorister here all those years ago he sang at the Rehallowing service of the Nave in October 1965 in the presence of **HRH Princess Margaret**. There's a photograph of this service in the Song School (taken by the Lancashire Evening Telegraph) which shows the Princess (who arrived an hour late!) with JB conducting and Neil singing. Neil was standing next to the young **Derek Crompton** – but Derek was just out of the picture.



Richard Tanner suggested that there should be an update on that picture, so he took a photo of **Neil & JB** standing exactly where they had stood 45 years ago!



Come again, Neil, real soon, for your visit inspired us all.

Book Saturday and Sunday, 12 & 13th September for our next BCOCA REUNION.
YPC members are given a free dinner!
Old Choristers should have their invitation cards included with this edition.

James Davy plays at the Royal Albert Hall - again!



Hope, Inspiration and Jerusalem in Knightsbridge, or 'James and Jerusalem'



Nearly 6,000 women (and 6 men) filled the Royal Albert Hall on Wednesday 3 June for the National Federation of Women's Institutes' AGM.

Assistant D o M, **James Davy**, was organist for the meeting, as in previous years, and kept the arriving delegates entertained with music on the fabulous Grand Organ.



James writes: At first, there was a predominant aura of chatter as the ladies met old friends, but which gave way at the end of each item to greater applause; it's my biggest audience! One lady even told me that hearing the organ was the highlight of the meeting for her!

I was very well looked after, with a dressing-room of my own and, best of all, getting to play the second-biggest organ in the UK. [Your editor also played there in the 1980s on BBCTV.]

The meeting opened with the traditional singing of 'Jerusalem' - a thrilling sound with the Grand Organ and so many women's voices together! A variety of domestic business followed, including votes and updates on the work of the WI.

Guest speakers included actor **Maureen Lipman**, who delighted

the meeting with an extract from her Joyce Grenfell-inspired speech to a fictional WI meeting.

Jonathan Wild, of Taylor's of Harrogate spoke about the work of Taylor's and the WI on environmental issues, stressing the Hope that the WI stood for, a theme alluded to by many other speakers.

Undoubtedly the real highlight of the day was the ever-entertaining **Richard Stilgoe** who introduced some apprentices from the **Orpheus Project**, a residential performing arts centre, founded by Richard at his former family home in Surrey.



Richard Stilgoe with some of his apprentices

Richard is an OBE, has written and presented numerous BBC radio programmes, and has appeared over two hundred times on *Countdown* and he was High Sheriff of Surrey 1998-99.

The apprentices are young disabled people who learn aspects of performing arts over the course of three years as well as life skills to equip them for work and life on an independent basis where possible.

The apprentices sang songs that they had written, by turns both moving and hilarious, to a hugely appreciative audience.

Finally Richard Stilgoe taught everyone the chorus (and actions!) to a song "*I believe I can really make a difference*", the combined voices raising the roof before the audience gave the apprentices a standing ovation.

Their performance was truly inspiring; a testament to the talent of the apprentices, for whom the traditional paths into the arts are not easily followed, to the great work being done for those with disabilities by people like Richard Stilgoe and the Orpheus Trust and others, and the power of music as an enabling resource for everyone. What a tremendous experience that was!



Speaking to me afterwards, Richard said: "They're great, aren't they? We've got about fifteen more young people at the centre. They're so talented."

He is a brilliant ambassador for this great work in addition to his huge talents with words and music. Let's have him in Blackburn soon!

The meeting finished with everyone, led by the apprentices, singing **Jerusalem, Ma hen wlad fy Nhadau** (Land of my Fathers) and **God Save the Queen** (for it is the AGM of both Welsh and English WI's) to the mighty sound of the fabulous Albert Hall Organ.

After all that, it was time for a bite to eat and return to the sunny (!) North-West. And not a pot of jam in sight.

Well done, James!

The Orpheus Trust can be found at: www.orpheus.org.uk

THE SIXTEEN sang at Blackburn Cathedral - again!

How delighted we were to welcome THE SIXTEEN to our cathedral – for the third time in 3 years.

They followed the pattern that they had established since their first visit – leading a choral workshop for volunteer singers in the afternoon, giving a short lecture before the concert on the music they would be performing in the evening, and then singing inspiringly to a capacity audience who had come from far and wide to relish the glorious sounds that these dedicated professionals produced.

The Master Class for local singers, led by SIXTEEN singers **Eamonn Dougan**, was most enjoyable. First he had them relaxing, then hunching their shoulders to show the difference between tension and relaxation:



And then, to reinforce the importance of being really relaxed, he had everyone raising their arms for the count of three!



Gill Fourie, our Music Outreach Animateur, and Director of **Lantern Voices** (our children's choir for ages 7-11), gave her all, as the Master Class continued with the singing of Purcell's *Remember not, Lord*, and other music which would be sung that evening.

And in the evening, of course, there wasn't a spare seat, as THE SIXTEEN, conducted by **Harry Christophers**, sang music by **Henry Purcell** (to celebrate the 350th anniversary of his birth) and **James MacMillan**, Scottish composer who was celebrating his 50th birthday.



Please come again next year!

Our choristers are so talented!

When the **Clitheroe Royal Grammar School Swing Band** gave a concert in your editor's church in Fence in April, they also attracted a capacity audience. This band, formed and conducted by former Blackburn choirmen **Nigel Spooner** (who is also an outrageously talented organist, and examiner for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music), is rapidly gaining a national reputation for its excellence.



How very good it was, therefore, to see, amongst the four splendid trumpeters, **Ellie and Arthur Geldard**.



Arthur was, of course, one of our leading soloists during his treble days in the cathedral choir, and now he's a valuable member of our YPC.

Ellie, who is a server at the cathedral and who is in her last year as **Head Girl** at CRGS, is going to Oxford in the Autumn.

And next academic year, **Arthur** will be **Head Boy** of Clitheroe Royal Grammar School. *Well done, indeed!*

It was your Editor's privilege...

...to lead a choral workshop for the **Ulster Society of Organists and Choirmasters** in Belfast in April. The Society has some 200 members, and they meet every month for a wide range of events – from exploring new repertoire for the organ, massed choirs' festivals, visits to interesting places – and workshops.

My invitation came from PHILIP STOPFORD, Director of Music of Belfast Cathedral, who runs an adventurous programme of music in his lovely cathedral. He is also a gifted composer.

The workshop was held in an enormous Presbyterian church in



Belfast – whose floor was so highly polished that you could almost see your face in it! Many talented choirmasters came – one had even driven 100 miles to be with us!

How good it was to work with these talented and dedicated church musicians that Saturday afternoon. Afterwards, a few of us posed for the customary compulsory photograph.



L-R: **Neale Agnew** (DoM of the church), **Philip Stopford** (Belfast Cathedral), JB, **Michael McCracken** (Down Cathedral where St. Patrick is buried) and **Dr. Harry Grindle** (Organist Emeritus of Belfast Cathedral).

Much building work is going on in Belfast, now that 'The Troubles' are over. It was a delight, for example, to explore the enormous Victoria Square shopping centre, which is built on several floors, with a spectacular glass domed observation platform.

There was only one downside to the visit: these days one has to take one's passport for flights – even to cities within the UK. What is the world coming to?



The President

of the Preston and District Organists' Association

... Dr. **John Ellis**, had the great idea to sponsor an organ composition competition for organists, and others, throughout the UK. The first prize would be £250.00, so we expected a lot of interest.

When the entries (all anonymous) were forwarded to the adjudicating panel, who were **Dr. Ellis, James Davy** and your Editor, we met in the crypt at the beginning of June to assess them.



Photo by **Richard Tanner**

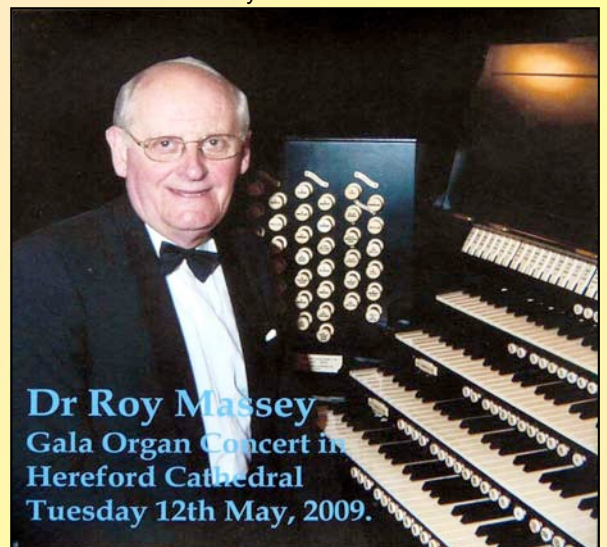
James generously provided tea and coffee for us, and he also played the finalists' compositions on the cathedral organ. This was most helpful.

Happily we agreed that there should be two prizes – one of £250 and the other of £100.

And the winners were Christopher Boodle from Gloucester, and Stephen Burtonwood from Oldham. **Congratulations!** James will play the winning music at a recital in the cathedral in the autumn, hopefully with the composers present. Watch this space!

Dr ROY MASSEY, MBE

...who is a good friend of Blackburn Cathedral, and who was the Consultant when **Richard Tanner** was appointed here in 1998, recently celebrated his 75th birthday by giving a stunning recital in Hereford Cathedral, where he had been Director of Music for 27 years.



He chose a wonderful programme – music which could be enjoyed by everyone, beginning with a Hollins Concert Overture (very tuneful) and ending with Liszt's Fantasia on B.A.C.H. (brilliant).

But he was generous enough to include JB's **Variations for Pedals only** on *Light's abode* – tune by Henry Smart – organist of Blackburn PC in 1831. JB had composed these Variations for the opening of our new organ in 1969. Roy sent a CD of his recital to JB. Roy's agile and sparkling performance brought down the house! What a thrill and what an honour. Thank you, Dr. Massey, and **Many Happy Returns of that most joyful day!**

WORCESTER CATHEDRAL CHORUS TOUR BY OF 'WOODY' SEYMOUR

Woody is now Bass Lay Clerk in this very fine choir.



This is the first tour the Cathedral Choir had made to the west coast of the United States of America and for many of the Choristers their first tour out of Europe.

The party of 16 choristers, 12 lay clerks, 3 organists, chaperones and members of chapter set off for Heathrow on Sunday 29th March having successfully negotiated the clocks going forward.

Our non stop flight to Seattle was long but comfortable and gave ample time to revise a vast amount of music but mainly allowed me to break my Lenten fast of watching films and eating anything sweet!

Our first concert was in the town of Lynwood, just outside Seattle. A long programme of music spanning the whole of lent through to Easter was very well received - the first of our many standing ovations. The following morning we flew to Spokane (due east of Seattle).

The Boys showed us all what they were made of that evening in **Spokane Cathedral**; another long programme and jet lag wearing us all down, the boys kept going all the way to the end concluding with Bach's Singet dem Herrn, a *Tour de force* for any time of day but especially when a time of day meant very little!



An immense sense of pride in the choristers was particularly felt that evening.



After a flight to Portland we had two days of welcome rest, the highlight of which being a very enjoyable evening in **Jimmy Mak's Jazz Club**.

If anyone reading this is ever in Portland (OR) go there, you won't be disappointed - unless you don't like jazz of course.

From Portland to Medford where my personal concert highlight took place. Our venue was small and the lines of people waiting to get in had backed round the block. The church quickly filled up and soon the church hall had to be used as an overspill; the doors between it and the church left open to allow the sound to pass through. During the concert we even moved from the church to perform some items in the church hall so they could experience the sound up close. The lay clerks spoke with audience members during the interval and once again we were met with enthusiasm, warmth and generosity. A wonderful and very memorable evening.

Our final destination was Salem. This beautiful city is famed for its blossom trees which were on top form whilst we were there.

We were fortunate to be able take part in the Palm Sunday Eucharist at St. Paul's Church, a particularly uplifting service with an excellent sermon from our Dean, Peter Atkinson.

Later that day we sang Choral Evensong followed by a short concert. A trip to dip our toes in the **Pacific Ocean** came the next day concluding with Choral Evensong and concert at George Fox University.



The following morning we said good-bye to our hosts and, with great memories of the last 10 days and a heavy heart, flew home... straight in to all the Holy week services.



Adrian Lucas

Thanks must be paid to **Adrian Lucas** – Organist & Master of the Choristers, **Christopher Allsop** – Asst. Organist, **George Castle** – Sub Asst. Organist, and **Richard Pugh** – Tour Manager, who through their hard work enabled us to take our ministry to such fantastic places and to meet such wonderful people in doing so.

Woody

What a terrific time you must have enjoyed, Woody. Thanks so much for sharing this with us. JB

From ROGER BRICKELL, Cathedral Stewardship Treasurer

Hi John

On Wednesday, 3rd June 2009, my family were presented to **HRH The Prince of Wales**. They were the 10,000th member of the John Muir Trust a charitable organisation which owns and preserves wilderness land in Scotland.

See the Trust's website at

www.jmt.org/news.asp?s=2&nid=JMT-N10383.



Andrew was a member of Blackburn Cathedral's Sunday School in the early 1980s and a bell-ringer throughout the whole of that decade until leaving to continue his education in Edinburgh.

He has lived in Scotland ever since. Both Sheila, until her death last November, and I have been actively involved in Cathedral life for almost 30 years.

Kind Regards

Roger

Heartiest congratulations, Roger – you must be so proud of your lovely family – and what a souvenir! JB

How very good it was

... to see so many Old Choristers at the lavish luncheon which was served at Whalley Abbey after SARAH CHEW'S moving and most beautiful funeral (see p. 14).



Our hosts, OCs Nigel and Philip Chew (centre) were joined by



OC Graham Chapelhow (L), who is a member of Phil's Christian Hard Rock Band. They would be playing at the Blackburn Festival at Mill Hill the following day. 'There'll be 1,000 women screaming at me!', said Graham. But OC Stewart Hopkinson (R) said, "Graham's delusional, John - his counsellor tells me that he is getting better every day!"

However, Graham had brought his wife with him; Beverley is a lecturer at Blackburn College. Well done, Blackburn College!



Another Old Chorister there was Geoffrey Taylor. 'Make sure you get my tie into your photo!' said Geoffrey!

Phil told your editor that, as Vicar of two parishes, he spends most of his life on the perimeter of this world pointing to the next. What a wonderful ministry.



It was particularly good to see BCOCA Chairman Stewart Hopkinson meet Jack Longstaff – former Director of Music at QEGS.



Jack said to JB, 'It was I who sent Stewart to you to be auditioned after the Nine Lessons and Carols in 1974.' 'Yes I remember,' said JB. 'I asked you to sing the first verse of *There is a Green Hill*!' "You always asked potential new boys to sing *There is a Green Hill*," said Stew.

'Yes, to see how strong their Lancashire accent was: *Thur is a green hill...* and also to see if they could sing the last line again, without accompaniment.' 'Yes,' said Jack Longstaff, 'for they'd have to pitch the awkward interval from F to C sharp!' 'Quite right,' said JB. 'If they could do that, they were in!' 'And that changed my life,' said Stew, 'thank you.' 'And thank you, Jack & Stew,' said JB.

It was also good to see former SOC Ernie Gorner there. 'I'm moving from Barrowford to Settle,' he said. 'Why?' 'It's too quiet at Barrowford!' JB said, 'When you were Senior Old Chorister you certainly made your presence felt every Sunday.' 'Yes, for I was a welcomer at services and made sure that I wore my SOC medallion.' *Well done, Ernie*



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Couperin Messe pour les Couvents upon Corpus Christi Day

At Pentecost last year we experienced an amazing service in Blackburn Cathedral, when **Greg Morris** (our former Assistant Director of Music, and now Associate Organist of the Temple Church in London) played Messiaen's *Messe de la Pentecote* in the context of an Evening Eucharist.

This year he was with us again, but this time to play François Couperin's *Messe pour les Couvents* (Mass for Convents or Abbey Churches) in the context of an Evening Eucharist. The congregation sat in the Decani choirstalls, and eight choirmen



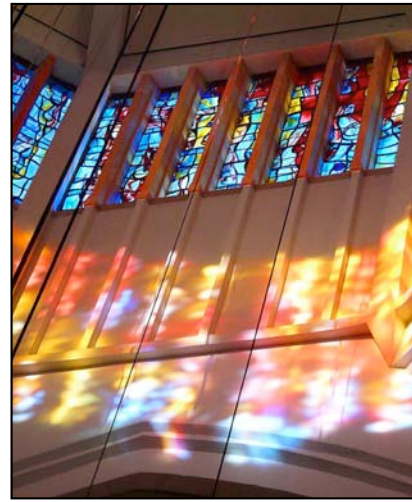
sang from the Cantoris stalls, conducted by **Richard Tanner**.



The service was celebrated most beautifully by **Canon Andrew Hindley**, with OC Assistant Virger **Alex Barnes** acting as server.



The early evening sunlight shone through the stained glass in our Lantern Tower – making a lovely setting for a remarkable service.



And what was the service all about? Well, in Couperin's time in France (1688-1733), folk liked their services to be enhanced by music – especially organ music, and Couperin was one of the best composers.

And because the words of the Mass were so well known, Couperin wrote freely composed music as a substitute for alternating verses,

thus decorating the action of the Mass with solo organ music.

This may strike us as 'unusual' – and so those of us in the congregation had to adjust our thinking back 300 years to France when the Sun King (**Louis XIV**) was on the throne, when all was glitter and gold.

So, for example, the first *Kyrie* (*Lord, have mercy*) was an organ piece played on full organ without reeds, the second *Kyrie* was sung to a short gentle plainsong by the choir, the third *Kyrie* was yet another organ piece, featuring a solo trumpet. And so it went on.

The *Gloria* and *Sanctus* were treated similarly, with choir singing alternate verses to those played on the organ, by which time we had achieved the necessary frame of mind to appreciate what was being offered.

The most moving moment for many of us came at the Élevation, when Canon Hindley said the Prayer of Consecration at the same time as Greg played Couperin's *Élevation* music. i.e. we could only just hear the words – but the spiritual message was profound.



And at the end of the service, after we had communicated, a Cantor dismissed us in Latin, *Go, the Mass is ended*, and the organ responded in music, *Thanks be to God*.



It was a remarkable experience for us all.

Thank you, Andrew, Thank you, Richard and the choirmen,

and a very special Thank you to Greg.

[Full page photo of children's choirs]

Music Outreach Project

The Cathedral was full to bursting on Saturday, 13th June when the Dean welcomed seven school choirs and the children's parents who had come to give, and to listen to, an hour's concert which was sponsored by the Government's Music Outreach Project (MOP).



Dean **Christopher** said how grateful we were to receive this generous funding from the government which enabled us to secure the services of such a talented team of instructors.



L-R: **Joanne Pearson** (Matron for Lantern Voices), **David Scott-Thomas** (MOP Animateur), **Gill Fourie** (Director of Lantern Voices, 8-11), **Jeff Borradaile** (MOP Animateur), **Joy Fielding** (Director of Lantern Voices, 4-7), and **Peter Jelley** (Cathedral Chapter member, & Coordinator of MOP)



The children sang some action songs which added to the joy of their performance, for them and for the very large audience who sat entranced by their children's musical talents. And **Ben Fourie**, son of **Gill**, played the French Horn for one of the choirs' items. What talent was there that morning!



A number of parents recorded the concert with mobile phones and cameras. What great souvenirs they will make!



Our own *Lantern Voices* choirs, were proudly wearing their new T shirts:



And of course, when our cathedral boy- and girl-choristers sang, they filled the cathedral with glorious sound – especially with their soaring top Gs in *The Holy City*.



Copies of the photos on pp. 24 or 26 may be ordered by letter from Dr. John Bertalot, Cathedral Close, Blackburn BB1 5AA, enclosing £5.00 cash for A4 photo, £10.00 cash for A3. (profits to M&M) Photos should be collected from the Cathedral Office after 2 weeks.

And to finish, the seven school choirs with our own Lantern Voices and Cathedral Choristers joined forces to sing *All things bright and beautiful*, with a soaring descant sung by our own choristers. It was a glorious hour of stimulating music. Heartiest congratulations to conductors, children and their parents! (And renewed thanks to the Government for supplying the finance!)



And that afternoon in the cathedral there was a complete change of mood...

...for the Renaissance Singers, conducted by RICHARD TANNER, rehearsed for a live broadcast they would be making the next day at 8.10 am (warm-up at 7.00 am!) to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the birth of ANNE FRANK, who died in the Holocaust in WWII after hiding for several years in a loft in Amsterdam.



She had written a diary about her years in hiding which has captured the imagination of the world, and extracts of which have been set to music, called *Annelies*, by James Whitbourn, former BBC producer and now fulltime composer.

The Renaissance Singers had sung the whole work in the presence of the composer last year, to mark the Anne Frank Exhibition, which attracted over 10,000 visitors to the cathedral.

And now they were about to sing it again (or rather, part of it) before an audience of millions.

This had come about through the initiative of exChange.

exChange is the Cathedral's community cohesion, education, outreach and interfaith development agency.



It is spearheaded by Canon Chris Chivers, who conceived the idea and wrote the script, and Mrs. Anjum Anwar MBE, the Dialogue Development Officer. Anjum is the only Muslim to be appointed to the staff of a cathedral anywhere in the world.

BBC Radio 4
 Sunday Worship
 from Blackburn Cathedral
 Sunday 14th June 2009



Photos taken during the Saturday afternoon rehearsal, with extracts from Canon Chivers' presentation made during the live broadcast the next morning:

Canon Chivers said: Welcome to this meditation commemorating the eightieth birthday of a person for ever trapped in our imaginations as a teenaged girl. The name **Anne Frank** is emblazoned across the twentieth century, her diary – read by almost as many people as have read the Bible – is a witness to all that is both best and most bestial in human nature.

It's strange to think that Anne was from the same generation as **Her Majesty The Queen**, and that she had a newspaper photo of the then Princess Elizabeth on the wall of the attic bedroom in Amsterdam in which she and her family, and a group of their friends, hid from the Nazis for over two years.

Terrifying to reflect that except for her father, Otto, betrayal led their lives to be extinguished amidst the horrors of Auschwitz and Belsen.

Anne's story is part of an appalling period in human history, a period in which the lives of millions were senselessly destroyed. A Jewish girl persecuted for no other reason than who she was: but one whose capacity to hope resonates down the corridors of time, as it transcends the barriers by which people seek to limit the way they define themselves and others.



Richard Tanner with BBC producer Simon Vivian

The composer **James Whitbourn** was the first to be allowed to set parts of Anne Frank's diary as an oratorio, *Annelies*. With his

librettist Melanie Challenger, he's woven extracts into a concert-length narrative – with passages in English, Dutch and German – the contours of which we follow in this meditation.

In this way, Anne's words are transported on wings of song. As Elie Wiesel, the Auschwitz survivor reminds us, music can take us to the world's highest palaces and its darkest prisons... "So much has happened; the world has turned upside down." It's hard to imagine what it must be like to abandon your home and possessions and be propelled towards an unknown and totally fear-filled future...



One of the most remarkable features of Anne Frank's diary is the way fear seems always to be met and overcome by hope... During the day she hears the constant chimes of the Westertoren Clock, emphasising the monotony of life in the attic – yet in the dead of night the same sound brings such reassurance.

Hope and fear. It's a combination that's a strong feature of Jewish responses from within the horrors of Holocaust, as the prayer we'll now hear reminds us. Scratched by a Jewish prisoner on the walls of a cell in Cologne during the Second World War, it introduces Psalm 46, an expression of hope for a world transformed by the goodness of God.

Emily Crewe read:

*I believe in the sun, even when I cannot see it.
I believe in love, even when I cannot feel it.
I believe in God, even when he is silent.*

and Rachel Fielding read Psalm 46:

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble;
The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold...*

"People again and not just Jews." This telling assertion points to Anne Frank's unshakeable confidence in the humanity which others sought to deny in her, as also to her implicit trust in God...

...the daily fear of discovery: this side of life in the attic must have been very trying. Yet it was, as Anne recognised, luxury compared to the hell that people were being consigned to in the outside world, rounded up, herded into cattle trucks and dispatched with such order and precision to almost certain death.

It's impossible to understand what Hannah Arendt, in her famous account of Adolf Eichmann's trial, described as the 'banality of evil'. When Christians and Jews came to reflect together on the Holocaust – and especially on the part that so-called Christian civilisation had played in its creation – the strands were recognised to be so complex that only through shared silence could they be addressed.



Nicola Howard (soprano soloist who sang Anne's words), with a trio from the Northern Chamber Orchestra.

Perhaps, in this sense, the sacred space of the music that we hear now, offers us the opportunity to express our own feelings prayerfully and reflectively, as in the traditional plea for divine mercy, *Kyrie eleison*, we hear the cries of perpetrators and victims alike, surely re-echoed now by those in our world in places of desperate need and suffering pleading for us to do something...

Invitations to put our trust in God can sound so hollow until the moment we actually experience the need to trust, and find it answered not so much by some spectacular act of divine intervention but through the compassion and care offered by our neighbours. **Anjum Anwar** is Blackburn Cathedral's dialogue development officer – she, a Muslim, and I, a Christian: together we work to build relationships across communities. Anjum was the coordinator of the Anne Frank exhibition when it came to Blackburn last year.



Ich danke dir für al das Gute und Liebe und Schöne.

I thank you God for all that's good, and lovely and beautiful. I'll always remember standing with a group of 8 to 13 year old chorists in the middle of the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam trying to do just that.



They'd been rehearsing for a concert and during a break, we visited the House. A noisy group of choirboys, letting off steam, soon became as wide-eyed and reflective a group as you could imagine.

Up the stairs we went, and found ourselves in Anne Frank's bedroom. The boys looked at the newspaper cuttings and pictures on the wall, and gazed out of the window. And then suddenly it happened: we were all helplessly in tears. We didn't need to say why – and we didn't say why – we just knew why.

I met one of those boys a while back, and one of the first things he said to me was "D'you remember when we went to the Anne Frank House?" And of course I did. "For me," he said, "it was one of the most important moments in my life."



James Davy, with Jonathan Brookes

"Anne Frank wanted to be the best writer she could be. She wanted the best from life, the best for other people. She got the worst in return. She was hated for who she was. But she beat them all and became the best ever... the most successful diarist the world's ever known. I decided I'd do the same and be the best I could be." Today that boy is one of the world's finest musicians.

The Dean prayed: Let us pray for all who live in the shadow of conflict and the fear that it engenders, especially for the peoples of Iran and North Korea.

For all who suffer persecution on the basis of their faith, ethnicity, sexuality, gender or political conviction.

For all who are powerless casualties of the decisions made by those who exercise power, especially children and young people imprisoned by poverty, neglect or abuse.

And Emily Crewe read Anne Frank's own prayer:

'I see the world being slowly turned into a wilderness. I hear the approaching thunder that one day will destroy us too. And yet, when I look at the sky, I feel everything will change for the better. Whenever you feel lonely or sad, try going to the loft on a beautiful day and looking at the sky. As long as you can look fearlessly you'll know you're pure within.'



Photo taken at the broadcast by Virger Alex Barnes



Part of the demandingly difficult and very fast piano part, helpfully fingered and played by James Davy

Canon Chris said afterwards: I was rather choked, I have to say, by the time I'd got to the penultimate page!

BBC Messages of appreciation sent to Canon Chivers BBC

I thought Sunday morning's broadcast was both very moving and a wonderful example of why I consider myself so lucky to be associated with all that is best in Blackburn.

Ian Clinton, Principal and CEO, Blackburn College

I thought it worked exceptionally well as a meditation. Chris's script was beautifully judged and the music very much enhanced the sense of a complete piece. There were some wonderfully evocative moments. Christine Morgan, Head of BBC Radio 4, Religion & Ethics

The programme was deeply moving... I came away impressed, inspired and emotionally stirred. Rabbi David Soetendorp, close friend of Otto Frank (Anne Frank's father)

I have just listened to the Anne Frank broadcast and found it most moving - beautifully put together.

Dr Barry Smith, director of music, St George's Singers, Cape Town, South Africa

The response to the service on Radio 4 yesterday has been overwhelming!! It has really reached out to people. Many people found it very emotional and uplifting.

Gillian Walnes, Director, The Anne Frank Trust UK

Nice service - listened on my tractor. Austen Kopley, printer to HM The Queen

BBC

And that Sunday afternoon,

... after the *Annelies* broadcast and a full Cathedral Eucharist, and before Choral Evensong (attended by the Mayors of our diocese), there was a lunch in the Crypt for the cathedral Volunteers.



The Dean, swathed in a colourful apron, removes the empty plate of chairman **Ed McCullough**. 'I am amongst you as one that serveth.' How appropriate!

The Café-in-the-crypt team had done us proud – and many were the favourable comments from the satisfied Volunteers who give so much to our cathedral.



Richard Tanner made the most of this relaxing time after his strenuous morning of live broadcast and Choral Eucharist which began with a BBC warm-up rehearsal at 7.00 am.



Barbara Walmsley, wife of former Friends' Chairman, **Keith**, was clearly enjoying the stimulating company.

And **Alma Nichols** and **Betty Stevens** were also having a good time.



Roy Stevens was Chairman of The Friends, and the engraved glass screen in the Jesus Chapel is in his memory.



LANCASHIRE
Telegraph

Special congratulations again to AMANDA MCCREADIE and her Café-in-the-Crypt team, not only for that day's splendid lunch, but also because they had recently received a rave review in the Lancashire Telegraph.

A half-page feature called **Answer to my lunchtime prayers** was written by their *Eating Out* reporter, Caroline Dutton.

Ms. Dutton wrote, 'Imagine my surprise and delight when I found a lovely venue right in the heart of Blackburn serving tasty food and giving good value for money. In pleasant surroundings with light classical and choral music cheerily playing, the Café in the Crypt is undergoing something of a renaissance. The menu is accommodating for those who seek a decent lunch and also offers much welcome variety...'

'We left feeling well fed and well looked after.'

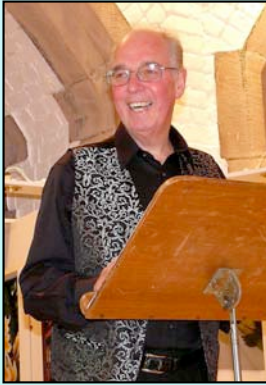
Well done, Amanda!



Amanda with Thomas (L) and Richard Robb

Whatta Man!

Gordon Shaw, Chairman, Chapter member, Renaissance Singer, husband of **Sheila** for 47 years, parent of a delightful daughter and two Old Chorister sons and Grandparent of EIGHT Granddaughters, a Man who Gets Things Done, a Man who seems to have boundless energy even though he's past his three-score-years-and-ten, and more and *more* and *more* ... this man held a *This is My Life* evening in the Crypt on Saturday, 20th June to celebrate 65 years as a chorister in Blackburn Deanery (31 in Blackburn Cathedral), which attracted a large and enthusiastic audience of friends and relatives.



He told us of his childhood (he and his younger brother **Ian** were choristers at St. Gabriel's Church), he told us of his teenage girlfriends and some embarrassing love-life stories, he played the piano to us, he sang to us, and he was supported, not only by a section of the Renaissance Singers who sang *The Teddy Bears' Picnic*, and by **James Davy** at the piano, but also especially by **Sheila** and their three children, **Elizabeth**, **David**, and **John**, also by their eight granddaughters, who sang 'Do Re Mi' – the song from *The Sound*



of *Music* as performed by the 8 von Trapp children in the movie. They introduced themselves by name to us and it was a total joy.

It was an extraordinary and delightful experience for us on that happy evening, for all the female Shaws look exactly like Sheila.



Gordon and Sheila, with sister-in-law (another Sheila) and Damian Trafford, singing 'Brightly Dawns our Wedding Day'.

(This was a re-creation of their teenage 1956 quartet at St. Jude's, with Damian replacing Gordon's brother Ian who died in 1992.)

It was a particular delight to see, in addition to daughter, **Elizabeth**, Gordon & Sheila's two Old Chorister sons **David** and **John**, who were trebles in the Cathedral choir 27 years ago.



David, who was helping to serve drinks in the interval, told your editor that he's recently bought 25,000 square feet of engineering works in Accrington with 20 employees. They make display stands as Taylor Shaw Manufacturing Ltd, and business is good!

John is a successful and highly respected proprietor of Beech's Butchers in Barrowford. Well done, Old Choristers!

And a by-product of the evening – apart from undiluted joy and pride in knowing such a man and such a family – was to raise funds for the musical education of our cathedral choristers.

The collection, with Gift Aid, came to nearly £800. This is wonderful. Thank you!

Well done indeed, Gordon, it is a privilege to know you and your amazing family!

Senior Old Chorister DAVID SMALLEY

...is organizing a photographic exhibition to be held in the South Transept – well done!

This will run from Monday 24th August to Monday 14th September.

It would be very good if some good folk would offer to spend an hour or so at the exhibition to welcome visitors, and to hand out brochures.



If you could find the time for this delightful and helpful task, please phone David now: **01254-812-439. Thanks**



Our prayers are for **Alison Smalley** who suffered a major accident to her hand recently, which has involved two serious operations and much pain.



After the Volunteers' Lunch (see p 29) your editor noticed some of our young choristers around the organ console.

(L) William Fielding, (R) Adam Whittaker, and (Top to bottom) Barry Hudson-Taylor, Jonathan Brookes & Elizabeth Fielding.

'When's the next Old Choristers' Reunion?' asked Adam. '12-13 September.'

'That means I can't have any wine at the dinner,' responded Adam sadly. 'Why?' 'Because my 18th birthday is the following week!'

'But it will be great to see you and your fellow young OCs there, for now ALL YPC members get their BCOCA dinner FREE!'

The Re-launch of the Sanctuary Project

Canon Michael Wedgeworth reports

Remember FARA?*

She and her daughter had to flee from Iran 5 years ago to escape brutal repression by the authorities because of Fara's interest in the Christian faith and her attendance at clandestine Christian gatherings.

**Whilst Fara is happy that we should tell her story, the current turmoil in Iran means that we have to use the shortened version of her name and an initial for her daughter – and we cannot show her photograph.*

Soon after her arrival here, she started to attend the Cathedral, and she and daughter 'F' were confirmed by **Bishop Nicholas** a year later. Fara attended Blackburn College, first on an 'English as a Second Language' (ESoL) course, and later for qualifications in catering, where she was awarded several 'best mature student' awards.

She worked as a volunteer in the **Café in the Crypt** for a long time. Offering her a wage as an asylum seeker would have been illegal, although many Cathedral friends helped her in various ways.

After a deeply stressful and tortuous appeal process, Fara eventually was given "permanent leave to remain". She is now very happily settled in Manchester, where she is a leading member of an Iranian Christian Church, and is working for further qualifications to get a full-time job.

Daughter 'F' should have been given a visa as soon as her mother's leave to remain came through. In fact it has taken years to get it, and it only happened because Fara went in person to the head office of the Border Agency in Croydon to demand that they respond to the many letters sent to them via **Jack Straw MP, John East** and **Debbie Johnson**. They issued the visa on that very day, after several junior officials had told her she would have to put her request in writing!

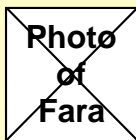
This is just one case among hundreds that the Cathedral's joint work with Wesley Hall Methodist Church has helped, though, sadly, not always with the same happy outcome.

The Project was re-launched, in recognition of a major expansion of its work, made possible by a large grant from the Children's Society, whose staff have been part of the project since the start, at a packed gathering at Wesley Hall earlier this year.



Mrs. Jean Duerden and Canon Wedgeworth with a refugee family from Zimbabwe

Those attending were asked if they liked the name 'Sanctuary Project' or wanted another. By popular request, the new name is the **ARC Project**, (standing for **Asylum and Refugee Community**: ideas for a new logo using the idea of Noah's Ark providing shelter from the storm are being thrashed out among clients, staff and professionals).



As our pictures show, this was a lively and colourful occasion, and revealed for many, perhaps for the first time, just how extensive and important this work has become.

The project works with people from more than 22 different countries (including Afghanistan, Eritrea, Iraq, Iran, Somalia, Zimbabwe, Angola. Middle Eastern countries, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Russia, Georgia, Nigeria, and several other smaller West African states.)



We are in touch, sometimes loosely, and at other times very closely, with most of the 572 asylum seekers who are dispersed to Blackburn with Darwen. These numbers have remained steady as more are dispersed here and some leave the area, return home or become refugees.



We estimate that there are around 300 refugees living in the Borough, some, like Fara, now with leave to remain (either for a fixed number of years or permanently) or, having had their appeal for asylum rejected, staying on without any financial support whatever, because both they and the Government recognise that it is unsafe for them to return home.

Many refugees are literally destitute, and depend on the Project, friends and kind supporters to feed and house them.

In spite of what many believe (aided and abetted by a hostile press and even more hostile political activists) most asylum seekers and refugees are intelligent, qualified and 'driven' people (they have to be to run the gauntlet of escape from terror, brutality and oppression) who want to make a serious contribution to life in this country.



The Revd. James Jones Minister of Wesley Hall talking with Dean Christopher Armstrong at the Launching.



The Cathedral's input to the project is very largely through **John East**, whom everyone knows as an indefatigable and totally committed worker on behalf of asylum seekers and refugees.

John and his work are entirely funded by grants from a charitable funder (the Lankelly Trust), the N.W. Development Agency and the Church Urban Fund, together with donations in cash and kind from supporters. No thanks are too lavish for the way in which they have helped the project.

Every Sunday our worship is enriched by the presence of both long-standing asylum seekers and refugees, and new arrivals.



How good it is that we not only pray with them the Lord's Prayer every week "each in our own language", but that we also welcome all to be part of our Cathedral community, and thereby find our own experience enriched and our horizons widened.

There's a **BLACK HOLE** of £10,000 in the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Music account which only you can fill !

For one of our major Sponsors collapsed this year before their intended sponsorship could be paid.

Unless we can raise £10,000 by the end of December

all sorts of cuts will have to be made,

There'll be no more **MAJOR CONCERTS**,
and Music & More will be limited to
only **THREE** editions per year ...

Your editor has begun to fill this black hole with a gift of £500 ...

He mentions this to encourage the many of you
who receive M&M free
(such as choir adults, Renaissance Singers and choir parents)
and to encourage those who have already shown great generosity
to dig deep, please, to help our unrivalled FoBCM Programme.

**Cheques to FoBCM, c/o Mrs Linda Bruce,
Cathedral Close, Blackburn, BB1 5AA,
will be most gratefully received.**

**And please fill in the Gift Aid form
to increase your gift at no extra cost to you.**

Thank you!

Heartiest Congratulations 1

to our Assistant Organist
DAVID SCOTT-THOMAS
who has just been appointed Director of Music of
BURY PARISH CHURCH.

'I have a fine mixed-voice choir of adults and children,' said David, 'and the organ has recently been rebuilt by Nicholson. The choir sings in a cathedral every year, and also makes foreign tours.'

'This will mean that you'll no longer be able to play for us at the Cathedral,' noted your editor sadly.

'Yes - but I shall still work for the Music Outreach Project (see p. 25) and will continue my work at Blackpool College



where I teach Musical Theatre three days a week.

'We'll miss you!'

'And I'll miss all my talented colleagues at the Cathedral,' said David. 'It's been great to have been part of such an ambitious and successful programme. I'd like to thank Richard and James, and the Dean and Chapter for all their support, and I wish everyone well for the future in this exciting place.'

Heartiest Congratulations 2

to our former Organ Scholar,
JONATHAN TURNER

who has just completed his
third year as organ scholar
of Lincoln College, Oxford,
where he earned an
excellent
2:1 degree in music.

Jonathan now goes as
organ scholar to
SOUTHWELL MINSTER
where the gifted **Paul Hale**
is Director of Music.
Well done, Jonathan!



WHAT A PLEASURE IT WAS...

...to welcome to the cathedral for the weekend of 27-28 June, the Youth Choir from our linked cathedral at Braunschweig. They were over here on a mini tour, and sang for 30 minutes before the Saturday Ordination, and also for our Sunday morning Eucharist.



Their conductor is **Elke Lindemann** and their organist **Gerd-Peter Münden**. There were 70 singers in their Youth Choir, and their conductor told your editor that they have a total of 600 young people (from the age of 5 to 21) in their choirs, and 200 adults (up to the age of 65)! The choirs make foreign tours every year – last year it was Switzerland, and the year before, Denmark.

And the singers (or their parents) pay for the privilege of being in the cathedral choirs! What a good idea!



It was fascinating to hear Gerd-Peter improvise introductions to all the hymns – Bach used to do this, too – it is a long tradition on the continent, and makes the congregation sit up mentally – ‘*What tune are we to sing to this hymn? Oh, yes, now I remember!*’

Many of the senior members of our choir will remember our singing visit to Braunschweig a few years ago when we were given wonderful hospitality. And so it was a pleasure to return hospitality to our guests – the **Shaw** family, for example, had seven singers staying with them, with three more to Sunday lunch.

But that service was special for other reasons: The sub Deacon, for example, was Choir Wife and Mother, **Rachel Fielding**.

Son **William** carried the Gospel for **Canon Chivers**, and William also received the collection which was offered at the altar by his Mother.

It was delightful to see Mother and Son bow to each other after the collection had been offered!



That service was also special because there was a Baptism halfway through: the entire congregation processed to the South Transept to take its part.

And it was special because the preacher was **Canon Brian Macdonald-Milne** who had been ordained here nearly 50 years ago. (*Canon Brian also happened to be an exact contemporary of your editor at Cambridge. Brian produced one of the musical comedies that JB wrote all those years ago.*)

Canon M-M noted that if Braunschweig were translated into English, it would be **Brunswick**.

Whereas Blackburn in German would be **Schwarzbach!**

Canon M-M had spent most of his ministry in Melanesia, and so it was appropriate that, after he admitted **Canon Chris** as a Companion of the Melanesian Brotherhood, **Brother Chris** was welcomed by two Melanesian Brothers.



It was quite a morning!

From OC Iain Thompson in Cheshire

Hi JB,

The Vale Royal Singers (in which I sing tenor) are about to break for summer but before that we are taking part in the Chester Summer Music festival on July 11th and then come back in the autumn for performances of Rutter's *Mass for the Children* and Vaughan Williams' *Flos Campi*, which we will perform with members of the Chester Phil in Chester cathedral.



Speaking of which ... I helped out as rent-a-tenor for the Chester St Cecilia singers who were singing evensong in the cathedral and sat next to someone (I forget his name) who had just been up to Lancashire inspecting your Fence church organ. Small world. (*His name was Michael Wright! JB*)

Speaking of organs, Carrie-Ann & I have just come back from Lausanne, where there was also a music festival going on. (They're everywhere!). We heard Widor's mass for double choir and double organ in their rather spectacular cathedral. Nice piece to perform – as long as you have a couple of organs available.

Let's do it here – we have 2 organs & six choirs! JB

Last Night of the Proms



A large and enthusiastic audience filled the centre Nave again for this annual 'Joy-Fest' performed by our massed cathedral choirs, the Renaissance Singers and the Northern Chamber Orchestra, conducted by our talented Director of Music, **Richard Tanner**.

But, as ever, the concert was preceded by a delicious Reception in the North Transept for our generous Sponsors and Friends.



Standing L-R, Kate Thompson (Sponsor) with Rickie Jones and Jen Williams.

Seated: Keith Macklin, Alan Jones and John Williams.

Without the generosity of the **Thompson Family Trust** this concert, and others like it, could not be staged. We are most grateful to all our Friends and Sponsors who enable us to fill our cathedral with such wonderful music.



Your peripatetic photographer also spotted our former Bursar, **Alan Rowntree**, talking with former choirparent, **Brenda Carruthers**.

Alan had been awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for his outstanding services to the cathedral.

'I've not been summoned to the Palace to receive it yet,' said Alan modestly. 'I hope they've remembered!'

Our gifted soloists stood in front of portraits of **Provost Jackson & Dean Frayne** before our concert which would mark the significant anniversaries of Handel, Haydn, Purcell and Mendelssohn.



L-R: Eamonn Dougan (Bass, from *The Sixteen* – see p. 19) Richard Tanner and Philippa Hyde, and two Countertenors, David Clegg and Christopher Royal (also from *The Sixteen*).

The concert began with a thrilling performance of Handel's Coronation anthem *Zadok the Priest*. (No finer anthem has ever been written.)



This was followed by a scintillating performance by **Philippa Hyde** of Handel's *Gloria*. This was composed for soprano soloist and orchestra and it is full of the most energetic *melismas* you have ever heard.

(A melisma is a collection of notes – generally very fast – sung to one syllable.)

Philippa's performance took our breath away (she needed every breath for herself!). The performance lasted fully 15 minutes and was the musical equivalent of running the 4-minute mile many times over!

Needless to say, 'Pippa' received an ovation for her dazzling performance.

This was followed by Purcell's *Birthday Ode for Queen Mary (Come, ye sons of Art)* in which all our soloists, plus choirs and orchestra, took part.

Then came a 'fun' piece for orchestra – Haydn's *Farewell Symphony*, which was written for Haydn's patron, Prince Nikolaus Esterházy, in 1772 while Haydn and the court orchestra were away from home at the Prince's summer palace in Eszterhaza.



The Northern Chamber Orchestra playing without a conductor (as was the custom for Haydn's orchestra!)

That stay in the summer palace in 1772 had been longer than expected, and the musicians had had to leave their wives at home for too long. So in the last movement Haydn hinted that perhaps the prince might like to allow his musicians a holiday. Therefore during the final movement each musician, one by one, stopped playing, bowed and left the stage. As there was no room for programme notes that

evening, this took our audience by surprise (as it must have taken the prince by surprise, too!). At the end there were just two violins left. The prince understood the message and Haydn's musicians returned to their homes the next day.



This unusual performance also received tumultuous applause from our delighted cathedral audience.

And after the interval the fun just increased with Sousa's energetic *Stars and Stripes Forever* (it was the 4th July – the day when the Americans decided, after careful thought 233 years ago, to run their own country by themselves!)

We were then launched into our own home-grown flag waving with Parry's *Jerusalem*, Arne's *Rule Britannia*, arr. Sargent, and Elgar's *Land of Hope and Glory*.



Union flags sprang from the hands of choirs and audience,



which were waved vigorously, and there was an encore of *Rule Britannia* sung with patriotic gusto by absolutely everyone.



It was a most happy evening – which ended at 10.0 pm – after which our faithful Virgers began to return the Nave to its Sunday state – ready for the Somme Day Service.

Very well done everyone, and THANK YOU!

No sooner was the 'Proms' concert over and a full Sunday of services...



... than our Girls' Choir made a CD (in four sessions) of music from the repertoire of the world-famous contralto, **Kathleen Ferrier**, who worked as a clerk in Blackburn's Post Office [now called *The Postal Order*] before she was 'discovered' by Benjamin Britten. One of her favourites was, of course, *Blow the wind southerly*.



Here they are warming up with **Richard Tanner** at the piano, watched by **James Davy** (who accompanied them for the CD).

Also featured on the CD is Schumann's *Frauenliebe und leben* (A Woman's Love and Life) sung by **Philippa Hyde** with Richard at the piano.

As you may know, (or do you?), when Schumann wrote accompaniments to the poems he set, he included material that wasn't in the words. When the young woman is leaving her home to get married, Schumann writes a pre-echo of the Bridal March that Wagner would compose ten years later – so we can imagine her approaching the church and hearing the organ playing. When, in due course, she delights in her baby, Schumann clearly shows her bouncing the baby on her knee, but the poem doesn't indicate that.

And (the most difficult 90 seconds for the soloist) when her husband dies suddenly – so much German poetry is about tragedy! – leaving her bereft, Schumann has the piano playing the accompaniment to the very first song (which described the moment when the woman first caught a glimpse of her young man), but this time there is no 'song'

but just an empty silence from the singer who has to stand there grieving, without moving. It's one of the most poignant moments in all German Lieder.

OC ANTHONY TATTERSALL is a remarkable man.

Not only does he have a lovely family (**Kerry, Matthew & Charlotte**) and is a successful school teacher, but he also conducts two fine choirs and is a wizard with computer technology.



His choir at St. Cuthbert's Church, Darwen, recently made a splendid CD called *Abide with me* which includes such favourites as *O Thou, the Central Orb, God so loved the world*, parts of *Fauré's Requiem*, and music by Elgar, Stanford, and Blackburn organists, **David Goodenough, David Cooper & JB**.

His choir 'Octavius' (see p. 4) will be singing in St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, in August. He had chosen most ambitious music for them, including Byrd's *4-part Mass* and *Faire is the Heaven* by Sir William Harris, which is in 8 vocal parts – (that's just over one voice to each part!). And they sing very well.

He teaches 6th year (ages 10-11) at St. Oswald's School, Knuzden, where he has 30 pupils. 'I enjoy it enormously,' he said, 'for the pupils are so well behaved – they are splendid. It's fantastic.'

And you're splendid, too, Tat! JB

Have you booked September 12-13 for the Old Choristers' Annual Reunion? This year all our YPC members are invited – and they'll be given their celebration dinner on the Saturday evening **FREE!**

An Evening at Dutton Hall

The Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Music (Chairman, **Rodney Swarbrick**, CBE) organised a splendid evening in aid of the FoBCM funds at the historic home of **Andrew and Catherine Penny** in July.



This exquisite 15th Century house, near Ribchester, is set on a hillside with superb views of the Lancashire countryside.

Linda & Andy Bruce were amongst the first arrivals...

... and the large room, holding 100 people, which our hosts had added to their home for evenings such as this, quickly filled with joyful guests.



L-R: **Olga Merrill** (from Mellor), **Eileen Hemingway** (Renaissance Singer, who had recently broken her arm), and **Kate Hodgkinson** (member of the FoBCM Council).



Our generous and most welcoming hosts greeted the **Dean** and **Canon Hindley** in front of their pristine lawns...



...which awaited the arrival of a section of the Renaissance Singers, directed by James Davy, who sang to us.



Lying next to **Rachel Fielding** (extreme right) was her daughter, Elizabeth's, electronic toy cat, which seemed to enjoy the music, for every so often it would nod its head in approval! Weird!



The Singers also sang in the hall to us – wonderful music, ranging from *Somewhere over the Rainbow*, and *The White Cliffs of Dover* (arr Davy), to *Fine knacks for ladies*, and other madrigals.



James also accompanied some songs on the hall piano, including one from Purcell's *King Arthur*. *'We've cheated the Parson, we'll cheat him again, for why should a blockhead have One in Ten?' [Tithing!]*

Fortunately neither the Dean nor Canon Hindley seemed quite to catch the words!

But the Dutton Hall cat (a real one) did its best to help James when he was playing the piano!

A delicious supper was served – a real sit-down two-course meal, provided by the good FoBCM ladies who give so much to our cathedral music-making. This was greatly appreciated by us all – the strawberries and cream were especially delicious!



The evening ended with the Singers singing Sullivan's *The Long Day Closes* – exquisite – and we left Dutton Hall full of gratitude to **Andrew and Catherine Penny** for allowing us to share the beauty of their home, and knowing that the evening had also helped the Cathedral's outstanding music programme. A spectacular sunset bade us all Good Night.



Our Cathedral Open Day...

... on the day after our Dutton Hall evening, was a great success. Many folk had planned it in generous detail so that pretty well every facet of the cathedral's life was on show, to be explored and enjoyed.

The aim was to show people all that goes on at the Cathedral – so there were guided tours, tours of the bell-tower, an open choir rehearsal, evensong, dialogues with exChange, the Renaissance Singers, handbell ringing, a children's treasure trail, displays, 'A week in the life of the Cathedral' audio/visual, refreshments and more. And how well they succeeded!

The Blackburn Salvation Army Band drew visitors into the Close.



And when visitors entered the cathedral, they were handed a leaflet with details of all that was happening that day – so that they could choose what to see first.

A superb display of flowers greeted the visitors. We are so fortunate to have such a creative team of flower arrangers whose work is appreciated week after week.

YPC members **Jonathan Brookes** and **Alex Wood** had set up a display of photographs showing some of the many



activities that had been promoted by the cathedral during the last year. That in itself was most impressive.

And a little further on **Emily Crewe** (who had just been nominated as Senior Old Chorister for the coming season)



stood by a similar board which showed photos of some of the musical services and ambitious concerts which we have enjoyed recently.

On the floor of the North transept was an enormous map of Africa attended by **John East**, who is so very active in our Asylum Project (see p. 31). He watched as **Canon Sue Penfold** lit a candle for South Africa, and she, in turn was watched by a member of our cathedral congregation who comes from Ghana.



In the Jesus Chapel was a glittering display of some of our cathedral treasures. But the display, in its turn, was watched most carefully by PC Support Officer **Matt St. Pierre**.



Downstairs **Richard Tanner** was leading a boys' rehearsal, which was also part of the Open Day programme, and in the crypt the



Higher Walton Handbell Ringers gave us a delightful concert.



Over 600 people enjoyed refreshments in our Café in the Crypt that Saturday. It was a marvellous and most successful day.

Well done, and thank you everyone!

And the next day, Sunday,

saw the end of our choir season. It was marked by most ambitious music: Vienne's *Messe Solennelle* in the morning, and the whole of Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb* at Evensong.



And during that service the Dean admitted three new junior choristers to the choir:

(R-L)

**Harvey Finney,
George Phillips**
and

James Tanner, son of Richard Tanner and Philippa Hyde. In the congregation were proud choir **parents**, and also proud choir **grandparents**:



Grandparents L-R: David Hyde, Dame Mary Tanner, Jenny Hyde and John Tanner.

Then there was a photo of the whole choir, after which there was a super party *chez Tanner* for the singers and their parents.



Back Row - men, L-R: Gordon Shaw, James Twigg, Paul Fielding, Philip Hunwick, Peter Eastham, Andrew Jump, Andrew Orr, Edward McCullough, Stewart Hopkinson, Philip Wilson, Derek Crompton, James Prowse, Philip Johnson, Barry Hudson-Taylor, Jonathan Brookes.
Middle row, L-R: Christopher Snape, Nicholas Day, Harry Brookes, Bradley Robinson, Robert Mitchell, Joseph Kennedy, Connor Buller, Matthew Adelekan, Matthieu Woodburn, Jack Aspinall, Elliott Day, Niki Zohdi, and choirman Anthony Snape
Front row, L-R: Richard Tanner, Canon Andrew Hindley. Boys: George Phillips, Robert Pollock, James Tanner, William Fielding, Dominic Chivers, Ryan Phillips, Harvey Finney, Aidan Halsall, Adam Kennedy, Canon Chris Chivers, James Davy.
Probationer: Oliver Fulwell

As the choir was dispersing your photographer was told that Chorister **Nicholas Day** had been named as the Musician of the Year at his school.

'Which school do you go to?' 'Longshaw Junior.' 'Heartiest congratulations! Do you play an instrument?' 'Yes, the clarinet.'

Well done, Nick!



The party was super. Mounds of food brought by parents, and also provided by our hosts. The Tanners' lovely home is exactly right for parties. A very good time was had by all.



What a great way to end a great season of music-making.

Thank you Richard, thank you James, and thank you every one of our talented singers and dedicated choir-parents.



A BIG WELCOME AWAITS OUR NEW ORGAN SCHOLAR

Justin Miller,
from Princeton, NJ, USA

Justin will be arriving in the middle of August, highly recommended by **Tom Whitemore** Director of Music of Trinity Church, Princeton. (You'll remember that Tom brought his choir here last year ... Trinity is where your editor was Director of Music for 16 years before retiring to Blackburn 11 years ago.)



Justin is a recent graduate of Westminster Choir College in Princeton. While at Westminster he accompanied several choirs and toured the United States with The Westminster Concert Handbell Choir. Additionally, Justin has played numerous recitals in New Jersey, New York, and in his home state of Michigan.

Tom tells us that Justin is brilliant!
Welcome, Justin!

Who will be first to invite Justin to their home for a meal? Contact the Cathedral Office: 50-30-90 (then 0)

Senior Old Chorister DAVID SMALLEY's Photographic Competition

to choose attractive photos as covers for sets of 12 Notelets
is a great success.

Sets of Notelets will be on sale in the Cathedral Bookshop at only £3-99. They will make great presents. Look at the top three photos which David chose!

FIRST: *Bergamot*, by OC Iain Thompson (see p. 33)

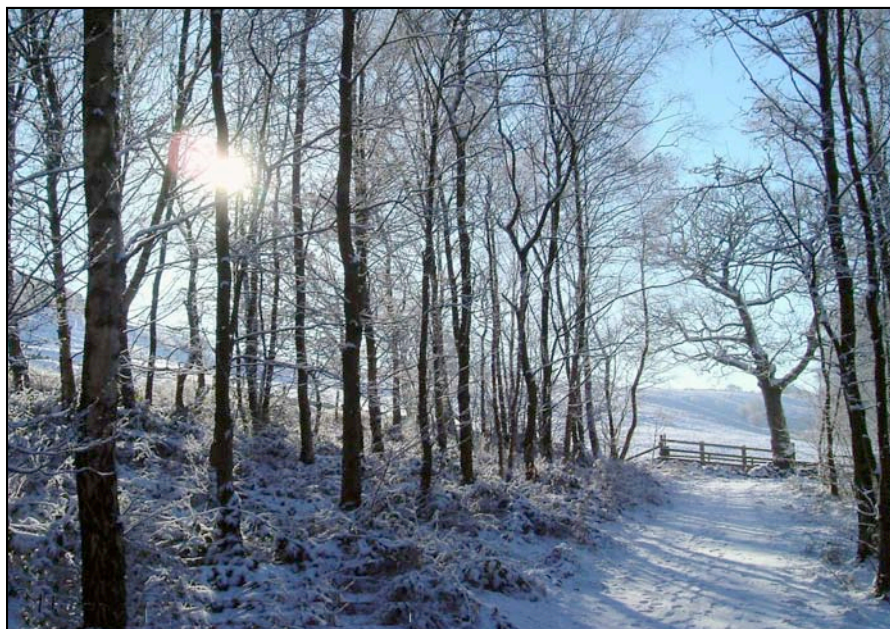
SECOND: *St. Peter's, Rome*, by John Bertalot.

THIRD: *Hoddlesden in the snow*, by choirman Phil Hunwick

These photos, and more, will be on display in the South Transept from 24 August until 14 September.

This will be part of a **much larger photographic exhibition** which David is organizing (see p. 30).

This exhibition will provide a climax to our Cathedral Old Choristers' Annual Reunion, 12-13 September.



WHAT CAN I DO

for the destitute Asylum Seekers
who come to the Cathedral for help?



Canon Wedgeworth tells us:

1

We need gifts of unwanted clothes
or children's toys or other goods –
(for they have no cash to buy their own
and they are not allowed to earn money).
Gifts can be left at Wesley Hall.

2

MONEY!

Cheques should be made out to
Blackburn Cathedral (Asylum Project)
and mailed to Canon M. Wedgeworth,
Cathedral Close, Blackburn BB1 5AA.

Enquiries to Canon Wedgeworth:

07879.606.532

Michael.wedgeworth@blackburn.anglican.org

THANK YOU!

